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Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-021
Tuesday
1 February 1994

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

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World Economic Forum Continues in Davos

Estonian Prime Minister Attends

WS3101162294 Tallinn BNS in English 1027 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Tallinn, Jan 31, BNS—Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar, along with government heads of many other states, attended Friday through Sunday [28-30 January] the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Laar spoke at the forum about Estonian economic reforms. He focused on the cost of the reforms for the population of the country and stressed that the success of the reforms doesn't mean an immediate growth of the population's income.

Several participants in the discussion following Laar's address expressed the hope that Estonia, unlike several other countries, will not abandon the course of quick changes, and gave their support to Laar's wish for "less foreign aid and more open markets." In the opinion of participants, this allows to speed up the pace of reforms and reduce a feeling of political disappointment.

Elimination of barriers in world trade and promotion of a free economy became the principal topics of the World Economic Forum, the government's press service informs.

Much attention was given also to the situation in Russia and to the economic and political integration into the European Union of Central and East European countries.

Laar's article in Thursday's issue of the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, in which he urged to continue shock therapy in Russia and not support the softening of reforms there, drew a great deal of attention at the forum.

Several speakers, like economists Jeffrey Sachs and Anders Aslund, and former Russian Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov, expressed opinions similar to those in Laar's article. All three left their jobs in Moscow in protest against the change in the Russian Government's policies.

Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt stated that hyperinflation in Russia poses a threat to entire Europe. He arrived at the conclusion that plans of action have to be worked out in case the situation in Russia becomes critical.

Richard Erb, deputy chairman of the International Monetary Fund, voiced his opinion that Estonia is in the forefront among Central and East European countries in transition from a command economy to a free market. He cited Ukraine as an example to the contrary.

The CNN television company recorded a 30-minute program with Laar that will be shown next week. It gave the Estonian premier an opportunity to elaborate and comment on his views.

Estonian, Czech Prime Ministers Meet

WS3101122094 Tallinn BNS in English 1900 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] Tallinn, Jan 29, BNS—Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar met today in Davos with his Czech counterpart, Vaclav Klaus, the government's press service told BNS.

Laar and Klaus discussed fostering economic cooperation between the two countries. They decided a memorandum on a free-trade agreement needs to be drawn up, and preparations for signing an agreement before the end of the year must be started.

The two premiers noted that both Estonia and the Czech Republic have chosen a course of radical reforms which, however, seems to be the only resultful policy. Due to the similarity of the two countries' economic policies, their positions coincide almost fully even without prior coordination.

The meeting also touched on security issues, particularly security guarantees for Central and East European countries.

Laar and Klaus agreed that the Czech Government head will visit Estonia this spring. The visit will probably take place in May.

Central Asian Presidents Hold News Conference

LD3101133494 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0700 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Presidents Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, Niyazov of Turkmenistan, and Karimov of Uzbekistan held a news conference in the framework of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

President Nazarbayev said: In the field of foreign politics we adhere to the course of integration with the CIS countries and we support initiatives aimed at strengthening peace, disarmament, and [words indistinct]. When we speak about Russia's policy toward the so-called near abroad, we have to admit that Russia has not yet elaborated its state policy as far as this issue is concerned. There are speeches by certain politicians who do not like the fact that the former Soviet republics became independent states. These politicians would like to continue to rule on all the former USSR territories. But Russia cannot do it now because it is experiencing great difficulties itself. [Words indistinct] all current problems can be settled by way of talks, by political methods—of which there are not many, in principle. Both Central Asia and the West should be interested in strengthening democracy in Russia and in real reforms being implemented there.

Answering a question concerning assessment of the situation in Russia recently [words indistinct] Uzbekistan's President Karimov described it as: Not very well thought out. He said Russia is a guarantor of stability in Central Asia. According to him, all [words indistinct] perceived as chauvinistic attitudes. It is not desirable for them to dominate because they pose certain threat for Uzbekistan.

President Niyazov noted that Turkmenistan and Russia do not have unsettled questions between them. Their bilateral relations are good. [Words indistinct] He said: I believe Russia has its strategic and political interests in Central Asia, and we respect them, but we also have our strategic interests in Russia. We seek good neighborly relations with Russia.

Turkmenistan's Niyazov Leaves for U.S.

LD3101160694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1422 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Following his meetings in Davos (Switzerland), President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan has left for the United States. A source close to the republic's government has told Interfax that the president must undergo an annual medical examination.

The source said that on March 24, 1993, during his unofficial visit to the United States, Niyazov had been examined at Washington's Walter Reed Medical Center. On October 6 of the same year, the Turkmen press carried a letter by former U.S. secretary of State Alexander Haig, in which he recommended that Turkmenistan's president visit St. Luke's hospital in Houston, where the world's best cardiologists work.

Unverified reports say that Houston is one of the cities to be visited by Niyazov in the United States.

Gerashchenko on Restricting Foreign Banks

AU3101143594 Paris AFP in English 1418 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By Peter Mackler]

[Text] Davos, Switzerland, Jan 31 (AFP)—Moscow plans to limit the presence of foreign commercial banks in Russia to encourage the activity of local institutions, central bank chairman Victor Gerashchenko said here Monday [31 January].

Gerashchenko said at the World Economic Forum here that foreign banks represent 12 percent of the one trillion rubles (646 million dollars) in capital held by the Russian banking community.

"We think that for a certain period of time, we will keep this limitation," he told AFP. "We need to promote our commercial banks."

Moscow has already moved to curb the activities of foreign commercial banks operating under license in Russia, with only three of the 12 allowed to handle transactions with Russian residents.

Gerashchenko also said that $20 billion placed by Russian banks abroad was not being properly used. He said of the country's 2,090 commercial banks, only 100 or so were serious institutions.

Boris Nemtsov, governor of the Nizhny Novgorod region, which is a showcase for Russian reforms, criticised the fact that the 20 billion dollars was being placed overseas at all. "Our first job it to direct Russian money to our economy," he said.

Gerashchenko said Russia was also looking at tax breaks and other special arrangements to attract selected foreign firms to invest in Russia. "We need companies with some type of pioneering experience," he said.

The central bank chief echoed the determination of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin not to rely exclusively on monetary policy to fight rampant inflation in Russia.

He said the monetary component of Russia's inflation was "insignificant" and most of it was due to the state firms factoring all their costs into their prices while not using all their capacity.

The key, Gerashchenko said, was to selectively encourage production. "If we don't have a government-supported investment policy we will be unable through monetarist means to fight inflation."

Gerashchenko said that government expenditures for 1993 totaled 33.2 trillion rubles ($21 billion) and income was about 24 trillion ($15.5 billion).

He said out of the 24 trillion rubles in income, 17 trillion was normal tax revenues and 6.8 trillion was from sales of assets to the central bank.

Gerashchenko swore here that he was committed to free-market reforms in Russia, but came under renewed attack by critics who accused him of incompetence.

Jeffrey Sachs, former advisor to President Boris Yeltsin, said that for the last two years, Gerashchenko and other conservatives undermined economic reform in Russia by "demonstrating devastating disdain" for sound money management.

"Gerashchenko is showing no understanding that money is not a political toy," said Sachs.

Chernomyrdin Interviewed

LD0102095794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0932 GMT 1 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Kolesnichenko]

[Text] New York February 1 TASS— "Russia will continue democratic reforms. Far from abandoning the chosen course, we shall seek to step up the pace of reforms," Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin said in an interview with the CNN TV company in Davos (Switzerland) on Monday [31 January].

The Russian premier attends the World Economic Forum there. He said that Russia is now facing "difficult problems in the economy". "We know these problems and know what we should do to tackle them," Chernomyrdin stressed.

"The main thing now is to focus on these problems and to remove them professionally," he added.

"No matter what rumours are now spread in and outside Russia about the policy pursued by the government, I'd like to say that we shall not go astray from the course of reforms," Chernomyrdin stressed. "The advance towards democracy and market relations in our country is irreversible."

Speaking of the recent resignation by Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar and Finance Minister Boris Fedorov, Chernomyrdin noted that "the departure of some members from the cabinet will not affect the strategic line pursued by the Russian leadership".

"Chernomyrdin was and remains the cabinet head," he said. "There are no grounds for panic now. I'm developing an impression that some politicians alleging a departure from economic reforms, would like this to happen in real fact.

"They evidently want the government to change its course to turn the clock back. I'd like to say that this will not happen. The appearance of new people in the cabinet will not lead to abandoning the plotted course.

"We are heavily panned now for committed mistakes. We chose the democratic way of development and are now following it. This is the main thing. Sure, it is difficult for us, and we make mistakes. We are pursuing a new policy in a new country."

Chernomyrdin said during the interview that he fully trusts Central Bank Governor Viktor Gerashchenko. "Gerashchenko is a career banker with good reputation, name and style of work," the cabinet head noted. "I cannot say that he does not support the policy of the leadership and interferes with reforms. Gerashchenko knows well the country's problems and what to do to resolve them.

"I have no doubts about his high qualifications and know that he supports reforms. If Gerashchenko starts to interfere with our work, I'll be the first to insist on his resignation. I believe that this will not be the case."

"The Central Bank is now doing precisely what the government and the president recommend it to do," the premier continued. "If new bills are being printed, the decision is taken by the government and not by the bank.

"In this connection, I'd like to note that all the decisions on monetary and finance matters taken by the government in 1993 were agreed with the International Monetary Fund. The task facing us in 1994 is as follows: to maintain the level of inflation in the country at the level of under 20 per cent per month.

"Russia has huge debts to pay to major industrial enterprises. However, we do not plan to pay them fully. We are unable to do this now. Many in Russia want the Chernomyrdin government to print more banknotes and issue credits. We shall not do this under any circumstances."

"All of us should now do our utmost to start working in good earnest and produce goods in Russia," stated the cabinet head. "We can start the process of economic renovation only in this way. We are now facing spectacular tasks, the implementation of which will naturally provoke a negative response from some segments of population.

"It is important for us at this critical moment to prevent the rise of nationalist leaders of the Vladimir Zhirinovskiy type. We have no right to permit this happen."

Fedorov Grants Interview in Davos

BR3101163394 Paris LA TRIBUNE DESFOSSES in French 31 Jan 94 p 5

[Interview with former Russian Finance Minister Boris Fedorov by Daniel Vigneron in Davos; date not given: "Fedorov: 'Russia Could Have Met IMF Requirements'"]

[Text] Boris Fedorov resigns as finance minister, explains why he was not able to achieve his economic stabilization goals, and believes the government will make promises and then break them.

[Vigneron] Former Western advisers to the Russian Government—including Jeffrey Sachs—have had very harsh words for the conditions the IMF has forced upon Russia. Do you agree with them?

[Fedorov] Their criticisms are excessive. True, the IMF's approach was not always appropriate and its procedures lack flexibility. However, the principle of enforcing conditions must not be compromised: One must never give Russia money without demanding guarantees with respect to economic stabilization. In 1993, it was possible to meet the Fund's requirements (budget deficit down to 5 percent of GDP and inflation down to 5 percent monthly by year's end). These goals were the reason behind everything I did as finance minister.

Unfortunately, 60 percent of my program could not be implemented due to the government's lack of financial discipline. Let me give you one single example: I proposed last year to cancel some 50 decisions approving expenditures for which no funding had been found. To no avail. In Russia, the government decides on an expenditure first, and then it looks for ways to fund it. How do you conduct a stabilization policy in such conditions?

[Vigneron] How were your relations with Prime Minister Chernomyrdin?

[Fedorov] In the West, people find it hard to understand that a finance minister could disagree with the head of government as to which policy is appropriate. We had frequent rows. But frankly, I do not think Viktor Chernomyrdin is very conversant with economic mechanisms. However, he is a born politician. This is why he gave me his support every time I was able to convince him that he would benefit politically from a particular economic decision. Mark my word: To secure financial assistance from the West, Viktor Chernomyrdin will make all the promises asked of him with respect to budgetary and monetary rigor. Then, of course, he will break them.

[Vigneron] What do you think the West can do now to support the reform process in Russia?

[Fedorov] Western assistance must be channeled in two directions. On the one hand, it must contribute to funding private projects, as this creates jobs and stimulates related activities. On the other hand, technical assistance to training must be emphasized. Giving 10,000 people the training they need in the new economic context is far more effective than having 10,000 Western experts churn out studies or reports.

Russian CE Official Claims Troop Withdrawal Demand 'Unfair'

WS2801131394 Tallinn BNS in English 1043 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Tallinn, Jan 28, BNS—At a session of the nonmember states committee of the Council of Europe [CE] Parliamentary Assembly Thursday [27 January], Russian representative Yevgeni Ambartsumov claimed that the demand for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia and Latvia is unfair, the Estonian parliament's press service reports.

Ambartsumov, to support his claim, referred to the continued presence of Turkish troops in Cyprus.

The session discussed the conditions for Russia's joining the Council of Europe.

Swedish representative Daniel Tarschys resolutely stated no concessions will be made to Russia, the parliament's press service informs.

Mati Hint, a member of the Estonian delegation, and Latvia's Andrejs Pantelejevs emphasized that their countries cannot agree to Russian senior officials' attempts to tie troop withdrawal to various conditions or call it in question.

The CE Parliamentary Assembly session Thursday morning discussed the situation of the displaced Kurdish population of Iraq and heard an address by Luxembourg Prime Minister Jacques Santer.

The afternoon session focused on European transportation problems, environment, and agriculture.

Azerbaijan's Gasanov's Speaks at ECO Meeting

NC3101075894 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry Press Center has revealed that the fourth ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] Ministerial Council meeting in Tehran has ended. A delegation headed by Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov represented Azerbaijan at the meeting, which was also attended by the foreign ministers of Afghanistan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, and Uzbekistan. The ECO secretary general, leading officials of several UN committees and organizations, the president of the Islamic Development Bank, and WHO representatives were invited to attend as guests.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani delivered the opening speech, stressing the need to improve cooperation in the region and expressing concern over the continuing dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ali, and Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin also spoke. They strongly condemned Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan and called for the withdrawal of the occupying forces as soon as possible.

Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov addressed the meeting on behalf of the Azerbaijani delegation. He briefed delegates on developments in Azerbaijan since the last ECO Ministerial Council meeting and the time when Azerbaijan became an ECO member. Pointing to Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan, Gasanov urged the ECO members to support Azerbaijan's people, take concrete steps, and adopt economic and political sanctions against the aggressor.

Regarding issues relating to economic cooperation, Gasanov noted the importance of improving cooperation in transport and communication in the region.

Gasanov's concrete proposals were included in the ECO's program of work for 1994.

The meeting approved the ECO plan for 1994. It calls for holding the next meetings of the ECO Red Crescent Organizations and the ECO committees on power generation, transport, and communication in Baku. Gasanov held bilateral talks with the foreign ministers of the ECO members and leading officials of international organizations. Gasanov conveyed President Geydar Aliyev's letters to the presidents of the republics in Central Asia when he met his counterparts from Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Gasanov invited Foreign Ministers [name indistinct], Suleymenov, and (?Asymov) to stop over in Baku after leaving Tehran. They held talks with President Aliyev on the phone in Baku. Aliyev said he believed that the republics in Central Asia would support the justified struggle waged by Azerbaijan's people to restore their country's sovereignty and territorial integrity and ward off Armenia's aggression. He also stressed the need to strengthen mutual cooperation between Azerbaijan and the republics of Central Asia and wished peace and security for these countries' peoples.

Interior Ministers Meeting Postponed

LD3101195894 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1815 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] As a RIA correspondent was told at the CIS headquarters, the meeting of CIS ministers of internal affairs which was due to tackle questions of creating a single coordinating body to combat organized crime has been put off from 1 to 16 February and it will take place not in Minsk, but in Ashgabat. One of the reasons for the transfer is the absence of a minister of internal affairs of the Republic of Belarus, who was removed from his post by decision of the Supreme Soviet on 25 January because of the Lithuanian incident.

Russian, Kazakh 'Experts' Discuss Baykonur's Future

LD3101230294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1855 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 31 Jan—The Russian and Kazakh experts who opened a meeting in Moscow today will agree on the texts of draft agreements on the status and conditions of exploitation of the Baykonur cosmodrome and the town of Leninsk and draft treaties on leasing facilities at Baykonur cosmodrome and the town of Leninsk. [passage omitted]

The Russian side believes that Baykonur will not be able to exist in the foreseeable future without the Russian Federation space forces that currently ensure virtually all of the functioning of the cosmodrome. Kazakhstan, however, is coming out in support of withdrawing the military from its territory. Russia, therefore, proposed to its partner to consider a compromise solution—that is, a lease. Kazakhstan supported this option in general.

The current meeting is a step toward implementing the compromise. The experts are to determine the time limits of the lease, payments under it, and whether Leninsk should be included in the leased territory.

After completing the talks, the experts will go back to finalize the documents so that the agreement and the treaty are ready for signing when Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin visits Kazakhstan in late February.

First Day 'Constructive'

LD3101210594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2016 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The first day of Russian-Kazakh talks on the future of the Baykonur space vehicle launching complex was constructive and revealed no serious disagreements, said one of the negotiators, an official from the Russian Space Agency.

He told Interfax that, on Monday, the negotiators discussed a draft for an agreement between Russia and Kazakhstan on the status and use of Baykonur and the town of Leninsk. Lease conditions and whether Russian or Kazakh legislation is to apply to the leased facilities would be discussed within the next two days, the official said.

He said the negotiators were only dealing with documents drawn up by Russian experts. The Kazakh side "has not yet stated its official position on the documents that have been proposed" and would be consulting Almaty on Tuesday morning, he said.

Black Sea Fleet Commander Baltin Interviewed

LD2801192394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1158 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Admiral Eduard Baltin, Black Sea Fleet Commander, thinks he succeeded in "maintaining the fleet as a combat unit, an outpost on the southern CIS borders." He said so in an exclusive interview with Interfax on the first anniversary of his appointment.

In his words, the fleet was very much alive and proved its worth in exercises.

Baltin, like all his men, wants the uncertainty about the fleet's future to end and the two heads of state to arrive at mutually acceptable decisions.

The admiral emphasized that he opposed involvement of the fleet in politics and participation of servicemen in partisan activities of any kind, pro-Ukrainian, pro-Russian, communist or democratic. In his view, participation of armed men in political games may lead to unpredictable consequences. Baltin believes that the politicians must provide concrete aid rather than empty promises if they want to show that they care for the fleet.

He said that the fleet faced problems of logistic, moral, and human relations natures. As Ukraine and Crimea are short of fuel, energy, food and cash, the fleet is blamed for all the troubles, he argued. He recalled that the Sevastopol authorities demand that the fleet help them with fuel, money and energy while the land tax alone that the fleet had to pay amounted to nearly 13 Bn karbovantsy in 1993. The fleet received from Russia 77 percent of the total amount of credits and from Ukraine, as little as 23 percent.

Admiral Baltin said, "In our relations with the Ukrainian Navy command we have to recognize the fact that they represent a foreign navy and so our relations are business-like." He admitted that "we are tied by numerous links" but emphasized that "we cannot afford the upkeep of the units and ships of the Ukrainian Navy."

On the other hand, Baltin said that he was "prepared to have a closer cooperation with the Ukrainian Navy and its commander."

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 1 Feb

LD0102061494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0552 GMT 1 Feb 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 1 TASS—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on the election of Yuriy Meshkov as the president of the republic of the Crimea. "Meshkov has two modes of action before him: either really to begin to fulfil his election campaign promises, which may lead to a considerable complication of the situation on the peninsula and around it or come to see that talks almost on a par with presidents Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk, provided a certain status quo is observed, are much more preferable than the role of the leader of an embattled enclave". At the same time the newspaper's correspondent points out that much in the Crimean president's position depends on Moscow. "If Russia makes it clear to the Crimean president that his speedy drift to Russian borders will hardly be viewed positively and if it becomes clear to the Crimea that its economic position will worsen rather than improve in the event of a conflict with Ukraine, the new Crimean leader, whther he likes it or not, will have to be cautious both in his actions and statements. "If the Russian Federation leaders view the Crimean president as their best ally in putting pressure on Ukraine and regard any Crimean decisions as a guide for their own action, then one may have no doubt that, following an aggravation of Russo-Ukrainian relations, many Russian republics would develop a natural desire to follow the Crimean example and make use of the advantageous precedent in the interests of their own sovereignty". IZVESTIYA on the same subject: "The election of Meshkov as the president of the Crimea creates a fundamentally new situation in Russo-Ukrainian relations". "Until now, calls for the Crimea's secession from Ukraine and accession to Russia were issued only during demonstrations and rallies by opposition parties, which saved Moscow the trouble of officially reacting to them. The picture has changed after January 30: a person who does not conceal his pro-Russian sympathies and who is firmly intent on holding a referendum on the Crimea's status soon came to power in the Crimea. "Kiev resolutely opposes the idea: It is not difficult to visualise the outcome of the polling. If the new Crimean leader shows persistence, insisting on a referendum, the situation on the peninsula may get sharply aggravated, threatening to bring about serious complications in Russo-Ukrainian relations as well". TRUD on the election of Crimean president: Kiev, while stating that it has nothing against the election of a president in the Crimea, "at the same time hurried to adopt such amendments to the Ukrainian Constitution, which enable the president of the republic to call the Crimea to 'order' if the two republics' positions diverge". PRAVDA quotes Meshkov as saying in an interview that "peace and national accord are the most important thing for people in the Crimea." "There will always be room for both Ukrainians, Tatars and Russians in the Crimea—for all those who are prepared to work honestly here," Meshkov said. SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA believes that following the election of Yuriy Meshkov as the president "the Crimea has chosen its destiny" by quite definitely declaring its will for the establishment of closer contacts with Russia. ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on prospects for the development of reforms in the Russian Federation and an economic policy which the country's reorganised government will pursue. The newspaper believes that the new government "will have to look for some different approaches" to the solution of economic issues. "This is quite an urgent necessity but one gathers the impression that the premier and his closet entourage fear 'anti-market' labels so much that they do not reveal their plans so far," points out the author of an analytical article on the subject. At the same time he expresses an opinion that an adjustment to the policy implies "enhancement of state economic regulation and limitation on the freedom of operation of market mechanisms". Academician Andrey Zhukov, member of the presidential council, is of the opinion that there is no rollback in the reform process. At the same time, he points out that "the tendencies that manifest themselves now took shape long ago". "They were laid down by the old government and in no way created a good climate for entrepreneurial activities in Russia". KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) on the military service under contract. According to the newspaper, more than 120,000 people now serve under contract in Russia, which has helped to raise the manning status of the Army and Navy by 10 per cent. According to a recent presidential decree, there will be another 150,000 professionals in the Army soon. IZVESTIYA carries an interview with former Belarusian parliament chief Stanislav Shushkevich. He remarked in particular that "through the efforts of the Belarusian Government, not a single market mechanism works in the republic now".

Bentsen Said To Link Aid, Progress of Reforms

PM3101143194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jan 94 First Edition p 4

[ITAR-TASS report: "U.S. Treasury Secretary Links Aid for Russia to Course of Reforms"]

[Text] U.S. Treasury Secretary L. Bentsen has stated that Moscow's abandonment or slowing of the course of reforms will inevitably lead to a scaling down of the volume of foreign aid offered to it.

"Russia's future is in the Russians' hands," he remarked at a meeting with journalists in the White House. "The assistance which we and international financial organizations are giving will match the pace of the Russian reforms, which means that the choice is Russia's."

U.S. 'Pressure' Viewed

PM3101151594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Jan 94 p 7

[Yelena Ovcharenko article: "One Good Turn Deserves Another"]

[Text] It was back in Moscow that the "first warning signal" was sounded. When the U.S. President came to our city, Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen briefed the U.S. press traveling with Clinton and said: If the rate of inflation in Russia remains just as crazy, I am afraid that there will be a question mark over aid from across the ocean.

Quite little time has elapsed, and already the question of aid has moved to quite a different level. I will remark, however, that for those few days when the stir over Fedorov's resignation was continuing, informed sources were saying: America wants to see him as an "active player" and even allegedly links the granting of aid with specific personalities.

To judge from the move which Lee Hamilton, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. Congress, made recently, this really is so. Addressing the committee, he declared the following: "Although I support aid for Russia and am convinced of the need to give it, I will find it very hard to say 'yes' to economic aid for Russia if the Central Bank generously issues credits to large state enterprises in a few months' time. If the Central Bank does not take tough measures against inflation, it will escalate into hyperinflation and reduce to naught all the efforts to assist Russia."

The competence of the trans-Atlantic legislators and their desire to participate in the long-standing litigation between the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance are undoubtedly pleasant. [sentence as published] America's displeasure at the fact that the new Russian Government consists of "conservatives" is also obvious.

Maybe it is not worthwhile to pull the wool over everyone's eyes: In allocating money, the U.S. Congress and Administration themselves then put the brakes on it, falling short in their gifts and payments. On the other hand, they lobby ardently for politicians whom they love dearly. How can we disagree with Vladimir Petrovich Lukin, who, having quit his ambassadorial post in Washington, has already spoken out with no allowances for diplomatic protocol: The Americans should refrain from commenting on the composition of the government being formed.

It is indecent to exert such pressure, particularly as "not everything is paid for." During his visit to Moscow, Bill Clinton tried to persuade the Russians that he had "come as a friend," not as a mentor. Evidently impressed by these words, our president relaxed and failed to give him instructions to be passed on to the Congress as to who should be approved as secretary of defense—after all, Perry advocates the preservation of major military programs....

Kozyrev Still in China, Comments on Kazakh Nuclear Stance

LD2801161294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1515 GMT 28 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Georgiy Shmelev; ITAR-TASS transmits a service message at 1542 GMT killing this item]

[Text] Shenzhen, 28 Jan—"It seems to me that this is a very doubtful report. Kazakhstan is a country which has unequivocally stated that it has joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and the Lisbon protocol on this issue, and its intention to eliminate the nuclear weapons it has on its territory." Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told this to the special correspondent when replying to a request to comment on the report in the Iranian newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI about an alleged "Kazakhstan's special stance" in respect of the nuclear weapons it has.

"It is rather difficult for me to comment on that newspaper's report or even on the ambassador's statement until I have official information on this issue," the minister said.

Says Yeltsin's China Policy Unchanged

PM3101141594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Jan 94 p 7

[Andrey Kabannikov report: "No Need To Blame the Duma.... What A. Kozyrev Will Bring Back From China"]

[Text] Beijing—Andrey Kozyrev's three-day visit to China, which ends today, cannot be called too strenuous. Our foreign minister's talks with Qian Qichen, his Chinese colleague, took up only approximately 90 minutes. Then came a brief lecture for Chinese political experts, two very brief meetings with PRC State Council Premier

Li Peng and PRC President Jiang Zemin, and the traditional news conference for journalists.

The chief result of the visit evidently should not be regarded at all as the agreements signed here on crossing points in the border region or the protocol on consultations between the two countries' foreign policy departments but Kozyrev's very appearance in Beijing, which interrupted the succession of cancellations and postponements and confirmed Russia's desire and ability to tackle in earnest the building of relations with a great neighbor. Kozyrev assured Beijing that "the president's foreign policy" will not undergo any changes in connection with the government reshuffles and urged it to "judge by results, not by persons." Rejecting accusations of neo-imperialism, our minister declared: "If anybody thinks that he will be unable to reach agreement with me and will find someone else with whom it will be easier to reach agreement, I am afraid that they are badly informed, for example, about the makeup of the present State Duma. I invite them to familiarize themselves."

The visit to Moscow of Jiang Zemin, president of the PRC and general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, promises to be the next important step in the Russian-Chinese dialogue. After failing to happen last year, this trip is now planned for the third quarter of this year.

Silent on Military Cooperation

PM3101141194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jan 94 First Edition p 4

[Report by Vladimir Skosyrev and Konstantin Eggert: "Foreign Ministers of Russia and China Establish Order on the Border and Drive Out the Flies"]

[Text] Beijing—Russia wants to raise relations with China to the level of strategic partnership. That was announced by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev at a press conference in Beijing.

Western journalists inquired about the military side of the Russo-Chinese partnership, and even accused Kozyrev of hiding the figures about deliveries of Russian armaments to China and of not abiding by the principle of glasnost. The minister assured journalists that glasnost is alive and well at the Russian Foreign Ministry. Nevertheless, he did not cite any specific facts in the sphere of military-technical cooperation.

The PRC leaders are in no hurry to take up the formula of strategic partnership. The head of China's foreign policy department prefers to speak in more cautious terms.

The Russian minister spoke about the agreement on border crossing points and cited his conversation with PRC President Jiang Zemin, who said: "When a door opens, people may enter but flies may enter, too. We must ensure that there are fewer flies." By flies the leader of the PRC evidently means any kind of criminal element. The agreement signed recently in Beijing will help to establish order at border crossing points, in the words of Andrey Kozyrev.

The question of the demarcation of the Russo-Chinese border was raised at the press conference. This matter is proceeding successfully but nevertheless there are several islands in rivers along the border to which both sides lay claim. The fate of these territories has not been decided yet. However, the two countries' foreign ministers have agreed that this dispute must not harm economic activity on the islands. This means specifically that those Russians who are tilling the soil and gathering hay on the disputed territories may continue with their activities.

Gives Overview of PRC Ties

LD3101210894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0335 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The visit by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to the PRC reflected a most important priority of Russian foreign policy. We believe that good-neighborliness with the PRC is strategically important, the minister declared. Defining the principal criteria of Russia's foreign policy in the Asia-Pacific area, Andrey Kozyrev said:

[Begin Kozyrev recording] First, the importance of this region to Russia's future is increasing, above all because the economic role of the Asian part of our own country is growing.

Second, the system of international relations in the Asia-Pacific region—and, indeed, throughout the world—is neither monopolar nor bipolar but is becoming increasingly multipolar. I think that echoes of great power pretensions, including the idea that there should be one sole superpower, and the ideology of regional or global alliances of some countries in the Asia-Pacific region against others are receding into the past. The future of the region, and the world as a whole, lies not in power rivalry but in cooperation and interaction, above all among the great powers. The danger that a region of major military conflicts could emerge is now at its lowest level. The significance of the military factor has been markedly reduced.

At the same time, there is considerable potential here for tension. Not only is there the legacy of the cold war but there is tension created by new problems—the question of access to the resources of the seas and the Pacific Ocean, including the seabed, and a number of border disputes. Religious and ethnic extremism is dramatically acute in Afghanistan. It also poses a threat to Tajikistan. Unless we tackle these problems jointly, the outcome could be explosive for a region which includes both Russia and China, a region which is, of course, of vital interest to us.

In these circumstances the key issue is the threat of the spread of nuclear weapons and missile technology. I am sure that it is not in the security interests of any part of the region, including Russia, China, and India, for such a development of events to happen.

Fourth, the 21st century will clearly be a century of rapid economic development in the Pacific. Developing economic might will not threaten neighbors but on the contrary will create favorable conditions for economic growth throughout the region. In other words competition in this sphere is mutually advantageous competition. We welcome China's participation in the recent Seattle meeting of Asia-Pacific states as an important event. For our part we count on friendly China's support in getting Russia included in the region's economic unification.

Fifth, in Asia, as in other regions, economic progress helps to safeguard the principal human rights and freedoms. We favor the formation of a security community in the Asia-Pacific region, which anyone who wants will be able to join. In this respect we should, of course, bear in mind Europe's experience, but at the same time go our own, Asian way. [end recording]

[Announcer] The proposal to base bilateral relations on constructive partnership was made for the first time during the visit to the PRC by Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Kozyrev. Revea[illegible] this idea, Andrey Kozyrev said:

[Begin Kozyrev recording] What could this new concept mean? Above all, the further strengthening of mutual trust and security. Guided by the policy of good-neighborliness with the PRC, Russia still fully adheres to the principles of the declaration on the principles of relations signed last year at summit level. This includes the whole range of the two parties' obligations to comply with the principle of not using force against each other or in international relations in any form, including not being the first to use nuclear weapons.

We are also in favor of further progress at the first Russian- Chinese talks in Asia on military detente and confidence-building measures in the border region. As permanent members of the Security Council, Russia and China advocate resolving the problems of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula on the basis of International Atomic Energy Agency guarantees. On the whole, with regard to our cooperation on the Security Council, I would like to emphasize that we are satisfied with the existing level of interaction.

The enhancement of trade and economic cooperation is an important aspect of our partnership. We are ready to participate in major economic development projects being implemented by China, such as the construction of the Three Gorges hydroelectric power station complex. Russia is very interested in the modernization—or participation in the modernization—of Chinese industrial enterprises formerly set up with the help of the Soviet Union. Cooperation in border regions is one of the quickest and most effective ways to develop economic ties with - it goes without saying - a coordinating role for the governments of both sides. [end recording]

Views PRC Ties, Cabinet

LD3101183894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1534 GMT 31 Jan 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by Diplomatic Correspondents Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview that Yegor Gaydar may return to the Cabinet for a third time.

"Nothing is impossible in our world. A diplomat who says that something is impossible, in principle is not a diplomat," he said.

He believes that the current Russian Government is as reform- oriented as its predecessor. "The Cabinet has only been reorganized, so the current government is old, not new. That is why the Cabinet's membership will not be submitted to the State Duma for endorsement," said Kozyrev.

He noted that some of the departments had been reorganized. "New appointments have been made and some of the Cabinet members have been given a new status, say, a deputy prime minister has become a minister. This does not mean, however, that the government is new," he said.

Kozyrev emphasized that as before the Russian government would promote reforms and that Russia's foreign policy will definitely remain unchanged.

He told journalists who accompanied him on his way from China to Moscow that from the beginning he had not considered Gaydar's resignation a necessity.

"I had serious doubts about this. I told Gaydar right away that I respected his personal and political reasons. After all, everyone has the right to long-range tactical and strategic moves. However, taking into account prospects for the democratic movement and the results of the recent parliamentary elections, I thought that Gaydar should have stayed in the government to defend his views. The democratic potential should not have been weakened, particularly after a relative defeat during the elections," said Kozyrev.

He pointed out that the "practice of resignation" would hardly strengthen the democratic movement. Precisely because of this, he has spoken out for a mediatory stance.

"I consider both my co-thinkers," he said referring to Gaydar and Chernomyrdin. "Yegor Gaydar's resignation from Yeltsin's reformatory team was a shock for me," he said.

To quote Kozyrev, disputes do occur in the government and a minister may find it difficult to defend his point of view. "But after set-backs, one may raise the same question once again. This is what I told Gaydar," said Kozyrev.

He expressed hope that after Gaydar's resignation, the democrats would regroup their forces.

"It is the democrats' duty to tell the people what happened during the elections and what they are going to do in connection with this. The type of reform based exclusively on Boris Yeltsin's popularity is no long viable [as received]. Reformers, particularly the democrats who intend to form up a government, must win a mandate of their own during elections," said Kozyrev.

He said that the relative defeat during the recent elections would lead not only to a chain of dramatic resignations, but also to a dramatic self-analysis in the democratic camp.

With reference to Russia's relations with China, Kozyrev noted that they are not directed against third countries, particularly those in the West, and that they are developing "without looking back on anyone."

The head of Russian diplomacy said that the idea of "strategic partnership" suggested by Russia may be materialized during a visit to Moscow to be paid by Chairman Jiang Zemin this year.

He also said he is confident that Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit to China planned for the first half of this year will contribute to the development of bilateral economic cooperation. "Everyone is tired of the petty cross-border trade. We should pass to a new stage of our cooperation," he said.

With reference to the possibility of using China's experience in conducting economic reforms, Kozyrev noted that Russia "must not copy blindly" either the Western or the Chinese experience. "We should search for such economic solutions that would be acceptable to each of our areas individually," he said.

When asked whether the human rights issue was discussed in Beijing, Kozyrev said, "Yes. This topic is not closed for us, even though we have no intention of exaggerating it," he said.

The foreign minister confirmed that he views China as Russia's "closest" neighbor. He stands for returning to "common sense," he explained. "The term 'close neighbor' only means that the country in question adjoins Russia, and that Russia wants to develop with it equitable relations based on neighborliness. In this sense China or, for instance, Finland are 'close neighbors' for Russia," Kozyrev said.

IZVESTIYA Sums Up Visit

PM0102103794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Feb 94 First Edition p 5

[Konstantin Eggert report: "Moscow Offers Friendship, Beijing Replies With Polite Smile"]

[Text] Blagoveshchensk-Beijing-Shenzhen-Xi'an-Moscow—"How do you interpret the concept of 'constructive partnership with the PRC'?" Journalists did not tire of asking Andrey Kozyrev that question throughout the foreign minister's China trip. After all, as far as the masses are aware, the formerly hostile communist giants remain divided along ideological lines—democrats are in power in Moscow, while Communists rule in Beijing.

This is not important in practical politics—unadorned pragmatism and a painstaking desire to avoid any potential conflicts currently define relations between the two capitals. Nonetheless, it is not yet entirely clear whether the call from the Russian diplomatic chief to "move from a full normalization of relations to constructive partnership" will meet with the response from Chinese leaders that the Kremlin is hoping for.

Addressing members of the PRC People's Diplomacy Association in Beijing, Kozyrev explained that constructive partnership includes the strengthening of mutual trust, cooperation on the UN Security Council, and a qualitative improvement in trade and economic cooperation, not least in border areas.

But you get the impression that the PRC leadership is in practice in no hurry to pick up on the ideas brought here by Kozyrev. It is not simply a question of the traditionally unhurried style of Chinese diplomacy, but also of the PRC political elite's lack of confidence about how events in Russia will develop. For China stability is the key concept of state life. It was in the hope of stability that Beijing rushed to show its favor for the State Committee for the State of Emergency, and was shocked by the collapse of the USSR which followed August 1991. Since then Chinese leaders have forsworn support for any specific political forces in Russia, cutting themselves off from what is happening in our country with a reliable shield of "noninterference in other countries' internal affairs."

Interest in events in our country has now increased. Chinese diplomats have been persistently asking the delegation members and accompanying journalists about the changes in the Russian Government and Chernomyrdin's plans. The Chinese are particularly interested in the personality of the premier. For the first time recently they can see atop the Russian pyramid of power someone they can understand and who is close to them in spirit.

The program for the Russian prime minister's visit to China, planned for late spring-early summer, has not yet been agreed, but it can be assumed with confidence that his talks with State Council Premier Li Peng will mainly address economic issues—construction of a series of hydroelectric power stations and Russia's participation in modernizing more than 150 enterprises built in the fifties with the USSR's help. The Russian side plans to involve the stricken defense enterprises of Siberia and the Far East in the latter project. The Chinese are not rejecting this option, but nor are they rushing to commit themselves with specific pledges, leaving the door open for the time being for others who want to participate in the modernization—specifically, Hong Kong investors.

Military-technical cooperation remains another sphere of major mutual interest for Russia and China. Russian arms supplies to Beijing invariably arouse poorly concealed irritation in the West, and this was evident from the questions which foreign correspondents put to Andrey Kozyrev at the final press conference. The minister was quite dry and hostile in rejecting the suspicions of behind-the-scenes deals between our country and the PRC, stating that all contracts concluded in this sphere have been submitted to the UN register. Western journalists were clearly unhappy with this answer. The curiosity of the corps of journalists in Beijing was intensified by the presence in the Russian delegation of Colonel General Boris Gromov, deputy defense minister. He did not take part in the most intensive section of the bilateral talks—the foreign ministers' meeting—but appeared merely at protocol events. Interest in Gromov was boosted by agency reports on the eve of the visit about major differences between Moscow and Beijing over the delivery of Su-27 fighter-bombers. The Chinese are allegedly refusing to pay for a second batch of aircraft, insisting that Russia sell them the technology to produce the aircraft. It should be noted that neither the colonel general himself nor people in Kozyrev's entourage clarified the problem. The delegation members literally "clammed up" at the merest mention of the arms trade.

The Foreign Ministry experts' explanation for the secrecy over this issue is that they wish to preserve commercial secrets. Despite this, various rumors and a lack of trust will undoubtedly continue to accompany the development of Russian-Chinese military ties.

Whereas the mutual benefits of "constructive partnership" are more or less obvious in the economic sphere, in the political sphere the new concept at first glance holds out more advantages for Moscow, which is counting on Beijing's support on the issue of Russia's membership of Asia-Pacific Cooperation (APEC). Moreover, the Kremlin is expecting help from the PRC in its attempts to block the spread of Muslim extremism in the former Soviet republics of Central Asia.

"Beijing has a better understanding than certain Western capitals of the danger that Central Asia faces from religious extremism," Andrey Kozyrev stated. He explained that for China, like Russia, Central Asia is their nearest neighbor. Needless to say, it is not simply a question of geopolitics—the Chinese are worried about the spread of Islamic fundamentalism among the Uighurs, who make up the majority of the population in the northwest of the country. Incidentally, the scale of the Uighur separatism problem in China and the range of issues which Russia is encountering in the new states of Central Asia are hardly comparable.

As for our country's membership of APEC, despite the Chinese leaders' official assurances of sympathy for this desire, Russian diplomats say that no real support from Beijing should be expected in the immediate future. Everyone is working on their own behalf in this area, and the PRC leadership is in no hurry to act as defender of the interests of a not entirely understandable or stable Russia.

While expecting few benefits from cooperation with China, the Kremlin at the same time cannot ignore the problem of human rights in the PRC—a problem which has caused so much lively interest in the West, and primarily in the United States. So far the criticism of Beijing from Russian representatives, including the foreign minister during the latest trip, has been absolutely unspecific. Kozyrev formulated Russia's official position as follows: "We are not making this subject a taboo, but nor do we plan to kick up a fuss about it." Foreign Ministry experts are privately voicing the following views: First, we should remember the Chinese political tradition, which has always placed the interests of state stability above the interests of the individual; second, we should be as active as possible in bringing China into contact with the outside world—not least through work in international organizations—gradually encouraging it to make concessions and to liberalize the humanitarian sphere.

In the opinion of certain Russian foreign policy department staffers, the U.S. view of the human rights problem in the PRC is largely based on short-term considerations linked to the battle over most favored nation status in trade and the pressure from the strong Chinese lobby. At any event, Moscow's line essentially still maintains its continuity with Gorbachev's famous statement on the Tiananmen Square events of 1989: "This is China's internal affair."

Russia is expecting a response from the PRC to the idea of "constructive partnership" and is hoping to get a more or less clear answer from PRC President Jiang Zemin, who is expected to pay an official visit to the Russian capital in the late summer or the fall.

Moscow Views Upcoming Talks With Japan

OW3101132194 Moscow Voice of Russia in Japanese 1100 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Unattributed "report": "Russian-Japanese Negotiations Scheduled for Late February"]

[Text] It has finally been announced simultaneously in Moscow and Tokyo that the long-awaited vice foreign ministerial talks between Russia and Japan and working level meetings on the bilateral peace treaty within this framework will be held in Moscow on 21-22 February. These vice ministerial talks will be the first official meeting between Russian and Japanese representatives to be held since President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan last October. As a result, significant attention from many nations, including third party nations, has been focused on the talks.

Although there are still over three weeks before the talks begin in Moscow, at this time we can probably go ahead and make the following assumption; that is, the talks will be held in a less friendly atmosphere than there existed at the time of Yeltsin's visit to Japan.

Several recent incidents have clearly accounted for the cooling down of bilateral relations. Above all, the major factor is the dumping of radioactive wastes in the Sea of Japan by the Russian Navy and apprehensions that it may be repeated. Of course, efforts have been made by both nations toward seeking a solution to the problem, but so far not everything has been settled.

Meanwhile, Japanese fishing boats have violated Russian territorial waters, and it has been reported that the Japanese Government plans to review its credit extension program to Russia, particularly on temporarily suspending humanitarian aid.

More important, however, is that political developments in both nations are raising great concerns over future bilateral relations; that is, there has been cabinet reshuffling in the Russian Government, and the political reform bills have not been passed in the upper house of the Japanese Diet so far. There are concerns in Japan that revisions in Russia's reform policy due to the reshuffling of the cabinet of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin may adversely affect its foreign policy, including its relations with Japan, and result in Russia taking a more hard-line attitude.

On the other hand, there have emerged views in Russia that even if the main core of the current administration of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa were to remain in power, the administration could get stronger, resulting in its taking tougher stance regarding relations with Russia. In this backdrop, it can readily be imagined that the most important task for the two nations in the bilateral talks is to assure each other that there will be no changes in policy regarding political matters.

For that matter, steps have already been taken by the two nations toward this end. For example, it can be recalled that on the opening day of the Russian Federal Assembly, the upper chamber of the Russian parliament, President Yeltsin made remarks stressing that he still has final say over Russian foreign policy as before and that there will likely be no changes to it. The president's remarks were directed at Japan. As for Japan, Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, who is also deputy prime minister, has stated in a news conference that on Russian aid, there will be no changes in the Japanese Government policy.

It is expected that at a meeting of influential people of Russia and Japan scheduled to be held in Tokyo in early February, steps will be taken to deepen mutual understanding and strengthen mutual confidence that has recently been complicated by problems. In the last several years, an important step regarding bilateral relations was taken whereby the two nations have been able to change their past relation of conflict into one of mutual understanding and cooperation. What is important now is to maintain what has been achieved, prevent reversal, and continue on the path toward establishing a true partnership between the two nations. It is hoped that political dialogue between Russia and Japan, including the upcoming bilateral talks, will contribute toward this goal.

Japanese Foreign Minister To Visit

LD3101161294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0947 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo, 31 Jan—Tsutomu Hata, Japanese deputy prime minister and foreign minister, intends to visit Russia soon. ITAR-TASS was informed of this by Gennadiy Burbulis, member of the State Duma and president of the "Strategy" humanitarian and politological center, who met the Japanese foreign minister in Tokyo today.

During the talks both countries' aspiration "to achieve serious development" of bilateral relations was reiterated, Gennadiy Burbulis said. Burbulis, who is here to attend the tripartite forum of Russian, U.S., and Japanese representatives on security in the northern Pacific, stressed Russia's intention "to seek the most specific forms of economic cooperation with Russia."

In an interview with ITAR-TASS Sumio Edamura, a former Japanese ambassador in Moscow, who attended the meeting at the Foreign Ministry, spoke highly of today's talks between Gennadiy Burbulis and the country's prime minister [as received] and foreign minister. "The arrival in Tokyo of one of the leaders of Russia's Choice, the biggest grouping in the State Duma, and his meetings with representatives of our government show that Moscow is committed to a policy of developing the entire range of relations with Japan," Edamura noted.

Delegation Members View Tokyo Northern Pacific Forum

LD0102100594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0952 GMT 1 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo February 1 TASS— A three-sided forum on security in the Northern Pacific with the participation of representatives from Russia, the United States and Japan opened here on Tuesday [1 February].

"A political basis for the forum was laid during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan in October last year. The forum will consider practically the entire range of matters concerning the situation in the Asia-Pacific region and measures to build confidence among the three countries," Colonel-General Andrey Nikolayev, commander-in-chief of Russia's frontier forces, told ITAR-TASS. The general arrived here to participate in the consultations.

This forum is being held as an unofficial meeting at which no official agreements will be adopted and no statements issued. The principal purpose of the forum is to enable experts and government representatives of the three countries to exchange views frankly in a confidential atmosphere on the complex problem of ensuring stability and security in the region and map out ways to establish effective three-sided cooperation in this respect, the need for which Washington, Moscow and Tokyo have come to realise.

Konstantin Sarkisov, deputy director of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute of Oriental Studies and member of the Russian delegation, in an ITAR-TASS interview, described the forum as a "sign of the times", pointing out that the time has come to make multilateral efforts to ensure security in the Asia-Pacific region.

To Russia, the Tokyo forum is of particular importance, the expert said. His opinion is that the forum may become a regular one and in due course turn into a permanently functioning three-sided commission of representatives of the three countries.

On the Russian delegation are also Gennadiy Burbulis, a deputy to the State Duma, Vladimir Zhurbenko, first deputy chief of the General Staff, Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Mamedov, Academician Aleksandr Yakovlev, and Vladlen Martynov, director of the Institute for the World Economy and International Relations.

The United States and Japan are represented at the forum by a large group of experts and officials, among them Graham Allison, a prominent expert on Russia and U.S. assistant secretary of defence, and Hiroshi Fukuda, Japanese deputy minister of foreign affairs.

Japanese Experts Claim Tokyo Can Develop Bomb

LD0102104794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1002 GMT 1 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo February 1 TASS—Tokyo now has practically all main technologies and components to develop its own nuclear weapons, since they were developed separately during civilian research, two leading Japanese independent experts, Hisashi Maeda and Haruo Fujii, told ITAR-TASS on Tuesday [1 February] in separate interviews.

They virtually confirmed the legitimacy of the conclusions drawn by the British Defence Ministry which, according to press reports, had warned its government way back last December that Tokyo was close to developing a nuclear bomb.

Mr. Fujii believes, in particular, that Japan's strategy is to distribute the formation of a nuclear potential among civilian sectors which raise no suspicions. Under present conditions Tokyo has no possibility to "hide" any large research expenditure in the state budget without specifying the purpose of the research efforts, Mr. Maeda pointed out, for his part.

Such a strategy yields certain results because, for example, the country's companies have long devised unique explosive devices for carrying out complex oil-prospecting operations, the devices which may serve already now as finished detonators for a nuclear bomb.

Of course, substantial technical obstacles still remain in the path of the development of a combat nuclear capability. However, the main problem, in experts' opinion, still is in making a political decision on the establishment of such systems in practice.

Japan is now obviously not prepared for such a dramatic step, considering the pacifist sentiments among the public, the memories of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the constitutional bans, and the government-adopted three non-nuclear principles: Not to have, not to produce and not to import nuclear weapons.

However, Mr. Maeda believes that Tokyo may seriously change its stance if it encounters a chain reaction of the proclamation of "nuclear sovereignties" by neighbouring countries. Japan is extremely worried by sufficiently reliable reports about North Korea's feverish nuclear efforts. There are suspicions that Seoul may also embark upon the same road if it fails to contain the military threat from Phyongyang by other means.

Mr. Maeda is of the opinion that Japan can well become a third "new nuclear power of the region" after South Korea, although, in his view, Tokyo would hardly make such a decision easily.

U.S. Announcement of 'Patriots' for ROK Reported

PM3101153594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Jan 94 p 7

[Sergey Ivanov report under the "Inform" rubric: "Patriotic Mood"]

[Text] New York—U.S. Under Secretary of Defense Frank Wisner has announced the Pentagon's plans to site Patriot ABM launchers on the border with the DPRK in order to reinforce the 18-mile line separating the two Koreas. In his opinion, this will not hamper the talks between the interested sides. This is supposedly being done exclusively for self-defense purposes to support the 36,000-strong U.S. military contingent and the South Korean Army.

But, as commentators point out, the Patriots clearly will not contribute to the slight progress that had become apparent in the "Korean nuclear problem."

South Korean President Urges Development of Relations

LD0102104994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1015 GMT 1 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul February 1 TASS—The development of Russo-South Korean relations is "extremely important for strengthening peace in the world and, especially, in northeastern Asia," South Korean President Kim Yong-sam said at a ceremony today when Georgiy Kunadze, extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of the Russian Federation to Seoul, presented credentials to him. He said also that he follows with great interest the pace of reforms in Russia and wished Russian President Boris Yeltsin a success in puting them into life.

Kim Yong-sam expressed an intention to pay an official visit to Russia during this year. "It will be five years this year since my first visit to your country and I would like to visit it again," he told the ambassador. Kim Yong-sam visited Moscow in 1989 as a leader of the opposition Democratic Party for Reunification.

He met Boris Yeltsin in Seoul, being a presidential nominee from the Democratic Liberal Party, during the Russian president's visit to South Korea in November 1992.

Kozyrev Comments on Yeltsin Visit to Georgia

LD3101201194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1818 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 31 Jan—"Russia needs an integral, sovereign, stable, and economically sound Georgia. It is only with this kind of Georgia that Russia can preserve the friendly relations that have been formed over the centuries," Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said, speaking at a meeting with North Caucasian leaders at the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry.

This meeting was held on the eve of an official visit to Georgia by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. "The importance of this trip," Kozyrev stressed, "goes beyond the framework of Russian-Georgian relations. Here we are talking about an important step toward the implementation of a strategic policy in the Caucasus. This policy is set on the basis of a carefully calculated balance between state and regional interests."

According to Kozyrev, "allegations of some kind of a military alliance between Russia and Georgia against Abkhazia are totally unfounded." Russia, he said, does not divide the Caucasian nations into "ours" and "theirs". One of the main tasks of the visit is to advance a settlement of the conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia and to reaffirm Russia's role as a mediator in this process. The Russian minister believes that if the sides do not reach a comprehensive political settlement of the Abkhaz conflict and do not formulate and sign the relevant documents under the auspices of the United Nations, it will be simply dangerous optimism to hope for peace in that region. In such a case, extreme nationalists, "the party of war", will increasingly shape politics in the Caucasus.

Kozyrev believes that, as a first step in this direction, it is necessary to agree on conducting an operation to support peace in Abkhazia, with the necessary involvement of peacekeeping forces and international observers. The situation in the region is of essential interest to Russia. That is why it is, yet again, primarily Russian peacekeepers who will have to conduct this peacekeeping effort in Abkhazia. Both Georgians and Russians are asking for it. Russia will once more carry the largest burden of the peacekeeping challenge—of safeguarding human lives, of the sovereignty of the neighboring state, and of the rights of national minorities.

Incidentally, the minister continued, "not only is Russia not hiding from the international community, but it is asking for its support". He resolutely denied "patronizing or vicious gloating by outsiders, or speculations by "the Zhirinovskiy factor", both in Russia and in the West. "What one needs is not lecturing on norms of the United Nations or the CSCE, but the practical effort to establish these norms in the Transcaucasia, as well as across the post-Soviet area on the whole," Kozyrev said.

During the course of the visit, the issue of the North Ossetian settlement will be raised with the Georgian leadership. The truce in North Ossetia is being maintained, thanks to the presence of the Russian peacekeeping contingent and representatives of the CSCE. Bloodshed may resume there at any time.

Comments on Abkhaz-Georgia Treaty

LD3101184694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1821 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow January 31 TASS—Russia needs an integral, sovereign, stable and economically prosperous Georgia to preserve centuries-old friendly relations between the two republics, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said.

Speaking at a meeting with North Caucasian leaders in Moscow on Monday on the eve of President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Georgia, Kozyrev said that the visit will go beyond purely Georgian-Russian relations as it will signify a serious step towards carrying out a strategy based on the balance of national and regional interests in the Caucasus.

The Russian foreign minister brushed off as groundless suspicions of a "military-political alliance" between Russia and Georgia against Abkhazia. Russia does not divide Caucasian people into "friendly" and "alien." It seeks to push forward the conflict settlement in Abkhazia and South Ossetia and confirm Russia's role as an active mediator in this process, Kozyrev noted.

If no comprehensive political settlement is reached and no documents are worked out and signed with the participation of Russia and the United Nations, it would be complacency to hope for peace and stability in that region, Kozyrev stressed. He warned that in that case extreme nationalists will take over in the region.

He stressed that reaching an agreement on peace-keeping measures in Abkhazia is a top priority. Those should involve international peace-keeping forces and observers. Russia has vital interests in that region, Kozyrev recalled, and will have to take part in the operation as well. Both Georgia and Abkhazia request so, he added.

Kozyrev denounced "mentorship or malevolence of outside observers and speculations about the 'Zhirinovskiy factor', both in Russia and abroad. We need not lectures about the norms of the United Nations or the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), but practical assistance to promote them in the Caucasus and the entire post-Soviet space."

During Yeltsin's visit to Georgia due to take place on February 3-4, the Russian leader will raise the question of conflict settlement in South Ossetia where peace has been maintained by Russian peacekeepers and CSCE representatives.

Kiev Not Expected To 'Revise' Nuclear Agreements

LD3101151894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1457 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Moscow has no reason to believe that Kiev might "revise" the Russian-Ukrainian-American agreements on nuclear arms, the chief Russian negotiator at the talks with Ukraine, Yuriy Dubinin, told Interfax.

"Further negotiations on this issue are required, to determine the procedure of their implementation, not to define or change the agreements reached at the highest level," he said.

With reference to the problem of the Black Sea Fleet, Dubinin pointed out that "it can be resolved, and must be resolved, particularly from the point of view of care for the Fleet's personnel." "The ways to resolve this issue were determined at the highest level, and what remains now is to reach agreement on the order of implementing what was planned," he said.

The problems existing in relations between Russia and Ukraine "must not be driven into a corner; they must be resolved fairly, on the path of friendship and cooperation," the diplomat stressed. "Both nations want it," Dubinin said. Russia's Foreign Ministry believes that it is imperative to implement all the agreements reached earlier between Russia and Ukraine, he pointed out.

Foreign Ministry Interested in Crimean Stability

LD3101145294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1359 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow January 31 TASS—Russia is interested in political and economic stability in the Crimea, a Russian Foreign Ministry official said.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Monday, the official said that "Russia is interested in political and economic stability in the Crimea and will continue to build its relations with Ukraine on the basis of the existing agreements, including those concerning regional cooperation."

"Experience accumulated in relations between the two countries shows that in the current situation the development of versatile ties between various regions of Russia and Ukraine may help improve the economic situation and living standards and reduce social tension," the official said.

Commenting on the results of the presidential elections in the Crimea on Sunday, the official stressed that "an assessment of the results of the elections in the Crimea should be made by Ukraine itself in the first place. It is its internal business."

"The victory of the leader of the political bloc Russia, Yuriy Meshkov, signifies that his position on most urgent issues was closer to and more understandable for the residents of the Crimea. The complex economic situation in Ukraine and in this region in particular played not the last role in the outcome of the voting," he added.

Crimean Election Means 'Headache' for Moscow

PM0102090994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Feb 94 First Edition p 1

[Maksim Yusin report under the general headline "Yuriy Meshkov's Election as Crimean President Creates Fundamentally New Situation in Russian-Crimean Relations"]

[Text] Moscow—Yuriy Meshkov's more than convincing victory in the Crimean presidential election creates a fundamentally new situation in Russian-Ukrainian relations. Until now it was only at opposition parties' demonstrations and rallies that calls for the peninsula to separate from Ukraine and join Russia were voiced, which relieved Moscow of the duty of officially reacting to them. After 30 January the picture changed: A man who does not conceal his pro-Russian sympathies and who is firmly intent on holding a referendum on the peninsula's status in the near future has come to power in the Crimea.

Kiev is resolutely coming out against this idea: It is not hard to predict the outcome of the voting. If the new Crimean leader shows stubbornness by insisting on a referendum, the situation on the peninsular will deteriorate sharply, threatening to cause serious complications in Russian-Ukrainian relations as well. Especially if matters reach the point of an armed conflict between supporters and opponents of the Crimea's separation.

For Russian diplomats this scenario of the development of events is the most undesirable. "We do not need the Crimea to join us at the expense of a rift with Ukraine," a Foreign Ministry representative, who wishes to remain anonymous, said. "We will use all our influence on Meshkov to incline him toward a dialogue with Kiev."

The Crimean question is a headache that Moscow could well do without. Yeltsin has more than enough problems with the Russian regions. The best solution for Moscow would be to let Kravchuk and Meshkov unravel the Crimean knot while remaining on the sidelines: Kiev agrees to a referendum in the Crimea, the peninsula's inhabitants come out in favor of a separation, and Ukraine recognizes the Crimea's independence; after which the Republic of Crimea, as a subject of international law, asks to be accepted into the Russian Federation, and Moscow considers this question calmly, without fearing a breach of the Helsinki accord. In time, as the economic and political crisis in Ukraine deepens, this development of events cannot be ruled out, but as of today it is unlikely.

Most likely Kiev will not reconcile itself to losing the Crimea, the threat of a conflict will acquire real definition, and the world will perceive support for the separatists by Moscow as interference in a neighboring state's affairs and an encroachment on its territorial integrity. The result will be a threat of Russia's being isolated in the international arena and a deterioration in relations with the West and the CIS countries.

By all accounts the Russian Foreign Ministry's efforts in the next few months will be aimed at reducing tension in the Crimea and preventing an open conflict between Kiev and Simferopol, but if it does break out, avoiding Moscow's involvement in it. Undoubtedly this policy will have a considerable number of opponents—and not only among Crimean radicals. As the parliamentary elections showed, a considerable section of the Russian electorate has nationalistic leanings. Duma deputies, who reflect these people's views, will certainly unleash a powerful campaign to try to incline President Yeltsin toward taking more decisive steps to support his fellow countrymen in the Crimea.

Crimean Election: Kravchuk Will 'Wait and See'

PM0102092194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Feb 94 First Edition p 6

[Aleksandr Shinkin report under "Nearby Foreign Countries" rubric: "The Crimea. An Expected Victory"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yuriy Aleksandrovich Meshkov was born in 1945. His mother is Ukrainian. His father is Russian—a Don Cossack. After finishing secondary school in Simferopol he served in the Border Troops. He then studied at Moscow State University Law Faculty. After defending his diploma he was an investigator in the Crimea Prosecutor's Office and an attorney. Meshkov is a deputy of the Crimean Supreme Soviet, in which he heads the "Republic" deputies' group. He is chairman of the Crimean Republican Movement and Crimean Republican Party.

By all accounts Meshkov's victory does not suit Kiev's politicians. Primarily because in his election program he advocated the lifting of the moratorium on a referendum on the Crimea's status. Its results, should it take place, are not hard to predict. But this carries the risk that the Crimean precedent could "detonate" Ukraine's eastern and southern regions. According to sociologists' data, pro-Russian sentiments are becoming increasingly strong in them. Moreover, a political force capable of consolidating them has appeared in Ukraine—the Interregional Bloc for Reforms, which is headed by Vladimir Grinev and Leonid Kuchma, who advocate close cooperation with Russia.

The first threats that the most resolute measures will be taken in relation to the Crimea, even including the introduction of troops there, have already been uttered in Kiev. It is no accident that anxious Kiev parliamentarians have granted the president additional powers—to rescind decisions of local organs of power, including Crimean organs, if they do not accord with the Ukrainian Constitution.

But Leonid Kravchuk has remained true to himself. So far he has not openly expressed his attitude toward the Crimean elections and is patiently enduring the accusations of radical national-patriots. The president once again finds himself in a difficult situation. On the one hand he gave his personal blessing to the election venture ("If the people want to elect a president they have the right to do so"), but on the other hand the demands to declare them invalid are altogether too insistent.

It must be assumed that for now Kravchuk will confine himself to removing Ivan Yermakov from the post of his representative in Sevastopol and will wait and see how events in the Crimea develop further. After all, judging by his last television debate, Meshkov came across as a reasonable and flexible politician, dispelling the myth created about him that he is an extremist.

Chernomyrdin Visits Liechtenstein; Relations Established

LD3101154794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1405 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nikita Yermakov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Vaduz (Principality of Liechtenstein), 31 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—Russia has established direct diplomatic relations with the Principality of Liechtenstein. A joint communique signed today in the capital of this small alpine state by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Mario Frick, chief of government of the Principality of Liechtenstein, stresses the desire of both countries and peoples to develop and strengthen relations and to promote mutual understanding and cooperation on the basis of the principles and standards of international law.

The accord on the establishment of direct diplomatic relations comes into force from the date of signing.

During his stay in Vaduz, Viktor Chernomyrdin had a private audience with Prince Hans Adam II von und zu Liechtenstein, who gave a dinner in honor of the top-ranking Russian guest. The head of the Russian Government also had a conversation with the head of the Liechtenstein Government. They exchanged views on the state of relations between the two countries, above all in the economic field. The heads of government called for the all-round development of bilateral contacts.

In Vaduz, the Russian prime minister visited Baron Eduard von (?Falz-Fein), a citizen of Liechtenstein of Russian origin, who was recently awarded the Order of Friendship of the Peoples for his outstanding contribution to preserving and increasing the cultural heritage of the Russian Federation and for returning cultural artifacts and works of art to the country.

Chernomyrdin's Italy Visit Viewed

PM0102100194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Feb 94 First Edition pp 1, 2

[Ruslan Ignatyev report: "ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA Exclusive: Sensations Around Visit. Events Behind Official Protocol of Russian Premier's Visit to Italy"]

[Text] Moscow-Rome-Vatican City-Moscow—Last night Russian Government Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin returned from a visit to Switzerland. As you know, he went there 29 January straight from Fiumicino Airport (Rome) after visiting Italy. Now that all has ended well, I can talk about a sensation of which everyone was unaware, apart from a few people responsible for getting the high-ranking official to the location of the visit and back, but first a word about a few other events that occurred during Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit to Italy.

A group of Russian journalists arrived at Ciampino military airfield near Rome half an hour before the main delegation from Russia. Preparations to receive the eminent visitor were in full swing here. The carpet had already been laid, blue-uniformed employees were moving a square carpet from place to place trying to find the right spot for it, and guardsmen in parade dress and bandsmen formed up in front of the small building. As soon as the special Russian Tu-134 touched down, everything came to life: Policemen started running around following their commander's orders, our security service sprang into action, and officials walked down the carpet to where the airliner was intended to come to a halt. We journalists were taken to a symbolically chained-off area and two guards were posted next to us. Viktor Chernomyrdin and his wife came down the ramp and the solemn ceremony began.

We were above all struck by the absence of local mass media representatives. This caused us some surprise. The new schedule for the official visit which we were handed at the airport listed the following among the party to welcome the Russian premier: Italian Foreign Trade Minister Paolo Baratta and his wife; F. di Roberto, Italian ambassador to Russia, and his wife; G. di Lorenzo, head of Italian Diplomatic Protocol, and his wife. These people are not that high-ranking. The following question involuntarily arose: Does this not smack of some disregard for our head of government? In response to my puzzled question, an embassy spokesman said that it all depends on the host country and different states have their own protocol. And, as for Italian journalists, they simply might not have been allowed in. In a word there was no sensation.

A motorcycle escort accompanied Viktor Chernomyrdin to his residence—the Grand Hotel. This is undoubtedly a high-class hotel. But a more fitting place could have been found for the premier of a country like Russia, for instance, the Villa Abamelik [name as transliterated], the residence of the Russian ambassador to Italy. We saw that this villa is one of the most respectable addresses during a reception given by the Russian ambassador. Set in vast grounds with evergreens, flowerbeds, and elegant old buildings. Inside there are paintings, tapestries, and gilded walls and ceilings. Viktor Chernomyrdin's modesty probably prevented him availing himself of what is indeed a mansion fit for a czar.

Two hours after his arrival Viktor Chernomyrdin was scheduled to meet with Italian Prime Minister C.A. Ciampi at the Villa Madama. It is situated on one of the highest points in Rome, the Monte Mario. There were just a few minutes before the talks began. Russian and Italian journalists had already assembled to cover the important meeting. One by one automobiles arrived with officials. Then suddenly a police car got stuck on the gravel in front of the building. There was some confusion among the onlookers. After all, the Russian premier's motorcade was due to arrive at any minute. However, to journalists' chagrin, everything went without the longed-for sensation. The police pushed the car out of the way.

The talks with Prime Minister Ciampi were more than successful. He promised support for Viktor Chernomyrdin when the question of Russia's joining the club of leading industrial powers is discussed during the coming G-7 summit in July. This statement made at a press conference has serious foundation. After all, this time Italy is chairing the G-7. That is, Rome's attitude to the Russian premier's visit is extremely serious and committed.

A real sensation was brewing after the talks. Valentin Sergeyev, head of the Russian prime minister's press service, unexpectedly summoned an INTERFAX representative (I don't know why the choice fell on what is effectively a private agency although correspondents from the state-owned ITAR-TASS and RIA "Novosti" were also there) and urgently asked him to carry a strange report via agency channels. It accused Italy's CORRIERE DELLA SERA of publishing an article which cited Viktor Chernomyrdin as saying "I give the orders in Moscow." Valentin Sergeyev described this stunt as a "hopeless venture" [dokhlaya koshka]. He was convinced that it was planned by people wanting to drive a wedge between the Russian president and premier. The head of the press service awaited the reaction of local journalists and even asked us to get them to organize a briefing in order to deal a worthy rebuff. However, there was no reaction from anyone. There was no sensation.

But many people agonized over another question: Why did Italian President Scalfaro not receive Viktor Chernomyrdin? The meeting was scheduled for 27 January. But it transpired that the president's father had died and so he had to postpone his conversation with his eminent Russian visitor. When he met Viktor Chernomyrdin, Scalfaro apologized at length and stressed that these talks are very important for him.

A visit to Vatican City and an audience with Pope John Paul II were scheduled for day two of the visit. Having obtained special visas we arrived in the Vatican ahead of schedule. We were led through countless rooms, past formed up Swiss guards, and down secret corridors. In every office there was a guard in a colorful uniform. When anyone appeared he would stamp his foot and pike sharply, making some intricate movements and frightening those present since we did not entirely realize the significance of his actions. It turned out that this was how he welcomed eminent visitors. We went through a narrow passageway to the door of the Pope's personal library. Some time later the doors opened and Pope John Paul II himself came out to meet us. He greeted us in Russian. A few seconds later Viktor Chernomyrdin came in from the opposite side with members of his delegation. They then closeted themselves with the Pope. A one-on-one discussion took place. Everyone was impatient to hear the news. We looked at the ceilings painted by Raphael and the tapestries executed in accordance with the great artist's sketches. Time went by. According to protocol the visit was to have lasted 30 minutes. A conversation with Vatican State Secretary A. Sodano was scheduled for later. But the meeting only ended about an hour later. We were given permission along with the delegation to bid the Pope farewell and shake his hand. There was a breach of protocol. I was told by the Russian mission in the Vatican that this was an unofficial visit. What is more, it is the first ever visit of its kind at this level. And, despite being a strictly private meeting, all the requisite honors involving the Swiss Guard were performed. The Pope showed tremendous interest in Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit. According to informed sources, the sensation with regard to the extended audience was planned by the Vatican itself in order to thus show its great respect for Russia's head of government. But Viktor Chernomyrdin's entire schedule was thrown out by half an hour. Yet the remaining meetings took place at the highest level.

By and large there were no deviations from protocol during the visit. Everything planned in Moscow was carried out with the exception of certain rearrangements. There were, if I can say this, sensations too. Nevertheless no journalists were aware of the main one, which occurred literally a few hours before leaving Vnukovo-2.

The point is that, before an aircraft is provided for an official trip, it is carefully checked over—given a run through. A special Tu-154M aircraft was scheduled to be used for the Italian visit. As usual, it was tested in accordance with procedure. The state commission then met. It examined the functionability of all the airliner's systems. The investigation was carried out with reference to the materials provided by the government commission investigating the crash near Irkutsk. Since the aircraft scheduled to fly to Italy was the same type as the one that crashed. It emerged during the discussion that there are a host of contentious issues regarding this aircraft. In particular, it was necessary to see that the so-called TA-6A auxiliary power unit was in good working order and check that there was no failure in its combustion chamber components. This regrettably proved impossible to do. There is still no technology to perform these checks. And it was this component that, according to preliminary information, was the cause of the Irkutsk crash. Had this flight gone ahead and this assembly been in disrepair there might have been a fire. So, in order to preclude the danger, the state commission decided to replace the Tu-154M with a standby aircraft.

Gorbachev Criticizes NATO's 'Partnership for Peace'

LD2901183294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1505 GMT 29 Jan 94

[Text] The ex Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has told Interfax that NATO's "Partnership for Peace" is a "camouflage to expand NATO in some form and bring its activity close to Russia's borders." "One should not expect from it better relations and tranquility. On the contrary, the seeds of discord and suspicion have been planted", Gorbachev believes.

Initially, there was the issue on an early admission to NATO of new members, but, seeing Russia's disapproval of this possibility, the North Atlantic Alliance "resorted to maneuvering and devised the 'Partnership for Peace' initiative." It's clear that NATO has, in fact, not given up the idea of expanding the bloc, he remarked.

In Gorbachev's words, "it turns out that in U.S" Russia "is suspected of threatening its neighbors." "That's merely an insult to the people of Russia", the ex president said.

In his opinion, a positive response to the concept from Russia's president and government at the recent NATO summit Brussels testifies to the absence of an integral home and foreign policy concept in Moscow.

'No Formal Obstacles' to Zhirinovskiy's Polish Visit

PM3101131194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jan 94 First Edition p 4

[Leonid Kornilov report: "Poles Urge Boycott of Zhirinovskiy"]

[Text] Warsaw— Who has invited Zhirinovskiy to Poland? The answer is Janusz Bryczkowski, a businessman and founder of the "Self-Defense" national front. Formerly a "green," later a supporter of the extremist farmers' party, he now works with the Communists in the patriotic association "Grunwald."

"I am on very good terms with Zhirinovskiy," Bryczkowski stated. "I shall do everything to make him a friend of Poland. I am sure that he is a future leader [vozhd] of Russia."

"Why is this leader of the brownshirts being allowed in here?" the Poles ask anxiously. "After all, other countries which he has not threatened as overtly as Poland have refused him a visa or have promptly booted him out: Germany, Bulgaria, France, Australia...." But a Russian citizen does not ned a visa to enter Poland.

"If Zhirinovskiy has the correctly completed documents, there are no formal obstacles to his entry into Poland," Foreign Minister Andrzej Olechowski noted.

Admittedly there is a secret list of people whose presence in Poland is considered undesirable. That list is based on information from the Prosecutor's Office, the Foreign Ministry, Interpol, the police, and the Border Guard Forces. Zhirinovskiy is not on that list. However, even though the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] has given an assurance that he loves Poland and has even promised to return Lvov to the Poles, he may be expelled from the country if he commits a provocative act. For example, were he to make the kind of attacks here that he made in Bulgaria against President Zhelyu Zhelev, then under Polish law he would face the threat of between six months and eight years in jail.

No serious Polish politician, from the president to the ministers and deputies, intends sitting at the same table with Zhirinovskiy. Closing the border to him means giving a clear signal to his Russian followers that they are marching to nowhere.

Aleksander Hall, leader of the Conservative Party, has said that there should be no fuss created around this figure, that he should not be given free publicity, and that his scandalous comments should not be carried in the press.

"More stable countries which are better versed in the subtleties of democracy have treated him as nothing more or less than a scoundrel," the newspaper ZYCIE WARSZAWY says to its readers and colleagues. "Let us not be original, let us ignore him too."

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy will arrive in Warsaw on Sunday, 30 January.

"All Poland will meet me!" the LDPR leader has stated.

Zhirinovskiy will visit the Grunwald battlefield [scene of 1410 battle in which Poles defeated Teutonic knights] and the country estate of his host, Janusz Bryczkowski.

"I would be a complete idiot if I did not receive the future president of Russia at my home and drink vodka with him," the latter stated.

Zhirinovskiy Draws Up New Map of Europe

AU3101145394 Berlin DIE WELT in German 31 Jan 94 p 3

[Interview with Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party, by Rolf Gauffin for the Italian LIMES magazine; place and date not given: "On the Search for a Lost Empire"]

[Text] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the right-wing extremist Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, is currently travelling through Europe. Yesterday he left Slovenia after having been asked by the Foreign Ministry in Ljubljana to leave the country as quickly as possible. Hinting to the former Yugoslav republics, he said that every people could not have a state of its own. He now intends to travel to Serbia. The following interview with Zhirinovskiy was conducted by Rolf Gauffin for the Italian geo-political LIMES magazine. The former French diplomat, who retired in 1991, now works as a free-lance journalist.

[Gauffin] How important is geography for you?

[Zhirinovskiy] From my early childhood on, history and geography have been very important for me. In the final years of my education, I took a particular interest in historical geography. I was born in deepest Asia, near the Chinese border. I did my military service in the Caucasus, and then I moved to Moscow.

[Gauffin] How could Gorbachev hope to liberalize the Soviet Union without taking territorial and national questions into account?

[Zhirinovskiy] Gorbachev's political concept resulted in the disintegration of the state and the collapse of the economy. He would have had to implement the reforms differently. He would have had to use the existing power structures of the Communist Party, particularly that of the KGB, and advance the democratization of the economy via these very structures, and, in a second stage, the democratization of politics.

[Gauffin] Why did the Moscow state coup of August 1992 fail?

[Zhirinovskiy] It was not a state coup in the real sense. It was a fight of two or three groups from the inner circle of power. This also explains why the state coup was neither planned nor carried out like a military operation. This is why it failed.

[Gauffin] In your book (entitled: "The Last Thrust South?") you describe a new security system rather than a Russian empire. This system comprehends the Baltic states, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. What option do you prefer? A military presence without occupation? Would Russia then not risk a repetition of what is happening in Afghanistan?

[Zhirinovskiy] No, one cannot put it that way. The events in the Caucasus show that without Russia civil war will break out there: Armenia against Azerbaijan, Georgia against Abkhazia and Ossetia. The same will repeat along Russia's southern border. Uzbeks, Tajiks, Kazakhs—they will all fight against each other. There will not be any Russian troops in those regions. The only thing we can do is sell arms. If these people want to buy arms then only Russia can do it. We do not want a new Afghanistan. Still, what can we witness there now? No government, no president, cities fighting against cities. That is the future of Afghanistan: The cities will be destroyed, traffic will collapse, hospitals will cease to function, and communication links will collapse. The entire region will go down. Iran, Turkey, and Afghanistan will intervene, there will be an inferno as in Lebanon or in Northern Ireland, and then after 20-30 years, they will come back, tears in their eyes, and beseech Russia to solve the situation—mainly at a psychological level. Moscow can make sure that the military operations will stop. The awareness of the strength of the Russian industry and the power of the Russian Army will stop all that. These regions and the international community will ask us, and we will—with certainty—stop the disaster, but only on condition that they pay for it.

[Gauffin] How far would you go in protecting the Russian minorities in the former Soviet republics, such as in Estonia?

[Zhirinovskiy] First of all, all Russians living outside Russia should be granted Russian citizenship. We will protect the Russian minorities mainly through economic measures. If, for example, the Russians are forced to leave the Baltic states, thus losing their property, we will add this loss to the price of goods that we sell there. With this money we will then be able to pay compensation to the expelled Russians. Take Estonia, for example: We will impose economic sanctions unless Russians are granted the right to vote. Considering Russia's energy resources and its infrastructure, Estonia will completely disappear as a state. That is the reason why we will never use military means. We will apply the law and our economy to defend Russia's interests.

[Gauffin] In an interview with the German NATIONAL-ZEITUNG you said that the Oder-Neisse line is not yet the last word in history. Can you define the borders of a future Poland that are legitimate in your opinion?

[Zhirinovskiy] Estonia should become part of Russia, because a large number of Russians lives there. Yet, Tallinn should remain a city state. Latvia should also be part of Russia, while Lithuania will become a small, independent state, an enclave. The area around Kaliningrad also belongs to Russia, and Poland? Well, Prussia was a German state including Wroclaw and Szczecin, and all these territories should go to Germany again. Poland can have the area around Lwow in compensation for its territorial losses. Belarus would like to be integrated into Russia. All of eastern Ukraine belongs to Russia and so does Moldova.

[Gauffin] What about Slovakia?

[Zhirinovskiy] One day Slovakia will also belong to Russia—and the Czech Republic to Germany. Austria and Slovenia should belong together, and Germany, Austria, and Slovenia should have access to the Adriatic. This is what the German people want. Thus, the Germans would have historical borders in the east and south.

[Gauffin] What does the future of Kaliningrad look like?

[Zhirinovskiy] One day we can give Kaliningrad back to the Germans. We want to return everything to the West it would like to have.

[Gauffin] As it used to be?

[Zhirinovskiy] Exactly as it used to be.

[Gauffin] What about Hungary?

[Zhirinovskiy] The Hungarians would also like to protect their population in Romania, this artificial state. Romania did not exist before World War I. This is why the Dobrudja belongs to Bulgaria. The remainder will stay with Romania. The population there comes from Italy.

[Gauffin] And what will happen with Yugoslavia?

[Zhirinovskiy] All foreign troops must leave the country. The Serbs, Croats, and Bosnians should keep the borders that exist now. The UN Forces should withdraw so that the warring parties can settle the conflict among themselves.

[Gauffin] What about Bulgaria?

[Zhirinovskiy] Bulgaria should get back its historical borders. The Dobrudja also belongs to Bulgaria. And the Greeks should return Thrace to Bulgaria. But, actually, these are none of our problems.

Our problems lie in the south. Kazakhstan was never an independent state, and it belongs to Russia. As far as Japan, Mongolia, China, and India are concerned, we do not have any territorial problems.

[Gauffin] Let us take a look at the Caucasus now.

[Zhirinovskiy] Trans-Caucasus. There we have Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia. One day, they will ask to be permitted to belong to Moscow again.

Yet, we do not want these territories. There are only criminals there, no reasonable economy, and no opportunities for profit for Russia. Iran can take over Azerbaijan, while Armenia and Georgia will go to Turkey. These countries have never been independent.

[Gauffin] What about Finland and the region there?

[Zhirinovskiy] No problem. Yet, Finland would like to have Karelia back. All I can say on this issue is that if Finland wants to have Karelia, all of Finland must go to Russia. We will not cede one inch in the west. One day, everybody will return to Russia. Belarus is Russian, Ukraine is Russian, and the people want to belong to Russia.

[Gauffin] Are you intending to set up a German-Russian axis? A continental alliance as a counterweight to the Atlantic one?

[Zhirinovskiy] One day, greater Germany, a new Russia, and India will form a new entente. Then there will be no problems for the world any more. India and Russia will neutralize China in Asia; Russia and Germany can control Europe; and Russia and the Balkan states will solve all problems in the Balkans.

Report on Zhirinovskiy's Visit to Subotica, Belgrade

LD3101150694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, arrived in beseiged Leningrad [as heard] last night at the invitation of the Democratic Party of the Serb Lands and the Russian-Serbian Friendship Society. Our Belgrade correspondent, Vladimir Solovyev, reports:

[Solovyev] No aircraft fly into Yugoslavia because of the sanctions, and the usual way here is by car from Budapest Airport. Several thousand people gathered on the square in the Serbian town of Subotica, the first town after the border, to hear Zhirinovskiy. At his first news conference in the restaurant of Belgrade's Hotel Jugoslavija, the democrats' leader was given an ovation. In his usual declarative fashion he said precisely what the people here have long wanted to hear. In Zhirinovskiy's view, there is only one way to stop the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina: by withdrawing the entire foreign military contingent from there and giving the Bosnian Serbs the opportunity to finish the war victorious—and even ultimately by sending the Russian army in to help them. Vladimir Volfovich [Zhirinovskiy] said that NATO air strikes against Serb positions would automatically be a declaration of war against Russia, and anyone taking part in that sort of action would soon lose the taste for it.

Zhirinovskiy will meet with the presidents of two Serb provinces today—Radovan Karadzic and Milan Martic; he will address rallies in Bijeljina and Vukovar and on Wednesday will probably address a big rally in the center of Belgrade. After that he will leave for Montenegro and the Serbian Autonomous Province of Kosovo.

Zhirinovskiy Advocates Neutrality of Ex-East Bloc States

AU0102102494 Vienna KURIER in German 1 Feb 94 p 5

[Interview with Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, by KURIER in Slovenia on 29-30 January: "If NATO Is Enlarged, This Will Not Contribute to Peace"]

[Text] [KURIER] Vladimir Volfovich, you are frightening millions of people in Russia and in the whole world with your statements. What is your feeling?

[Zhirinovskiy] The people of the world simply do not know how to deal with this new party, the strongest in Russia. The people do not have any experience.

[KURIER] You want to become Russian president. What would you do differently?

[Zhirinovskiy] I would stop the help for foreign countries and turn to internal problems, for example, the high crime rate and the reestablishment of the military and military industry.

[KURIER] You are constantly quoted as making contradictory statements. First you do not want borders to be changed in Europe, then you want to reestablish the Soviet Union. What is valid?

[Zhirinovskiy] I meant that the republics of the former Soviet Union will voluntarily become Russian territory.

[KURIER] You want to return South Tirol to Austria—this would probably not be possible "voluntarily."

[Zhirinovskiy] I talked about what would happen in Europe if Russia were divided. There are many problematic regions in the world, among them are South Tirol, Trieste...

[KURIER] The public prosecutor's office in Moscow is conducting investigations regarding you because of warmongering.

[Zhirinovskiy] This is a mistake of the political forces that are my opponents. They use every opportunity to harm me.

[KURIER] According to your party program, Europe belongs to the Russian sphere of influence.

[Zhirinovskiy] It would be best if all former East Bloc states remained neutral. NATO is a military bloc. If a country accedes to this bloc, this will not contribute to the establishment of peace. NATO will use these countries as small partners that are to serve the big members.

[KURIER] You are often compared with Hitler. Are there parallels?

[Zhirinovskiy] There is no reason for these comparisons. Then Pinochet and Mao Zedong would also have to be called Hitler. There is a Hitler in every country.

[KURIER] IZVESTIYA wrote that it is easier for you to seduce a nation than a woman.

[Zhirinovskiy] I never had the problem of being obliged to seduce a woman. As far as the nation is concerned—I am working on it.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Confirms Security Council Members

LD0102103594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin today signed an edict on the members of the Russian Security Council. The presidential press service reports that the council's members are confirmed in their posts.

They are federal counterintelligence service director Nikolay Galushko, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, Interior Minister Viktor Yerin, Justice Minister Yuriy Kalmykov, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, and also Foreign Intelligence Service Director Yevgeniy Primakov, Sergey Shakhray, nationalities and regional policy minister, and Sergey Shoygu, civil defense and emergency situations minister.

Further on Appointments

LD0102111994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1041 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow February 1 TASS—Russian President signed a decree on Tuesday "on members of the Security Council of the Russian Federation," the press service of the Russian president reported.

Under the decree, the Security Council includes: Golushko, Nikolay Mikhailovich, director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service of the Russian Federation; Grachev, Pavel Sergeyevich, Russian defence minister; Yerin, Viktor Fedorovich, Russian interior minister; Kalmykov, Yuriy Khamzatovich, Russian minister for justice; Kozyrev, Andrey Vladimirovich, Russian foreign minister; Primakov, Yevgeniy Maksimovich, director of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation; Shakhray, Sergey Mikhailovich, Russian minister for affairs of nationalities and regional politics; Shoygu, Sergey Kozhugetovich, Russian minister for civil defence, emergency situations and liquidation of after-effects of natural calamities.

Decree of the Russian president No. 1688 "on members of the Security Council of the Russian Federation" of October 20, 1993 was declared null and void.

The decree goes into effect since the date of signing.

Yeltsin Wishes for Peace on Birthday

PM0102092994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Feb 94 p 1

[Interview with President Boris Yeltsin, who is "congratulated on his birthday" by Aleksandr Gamov; place and date not given: "Boris Yeltsin: I Cherish Russia, Roses, and Rackets"]

[Text] [Gamov] Boris Nikolayevich! It is your birthday. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA congratulates you.... Your life arouses natural interest. Not just as the life of the president but as the life of a human being. Let us forget politics for a minute.... What gift would you like on your birthday?

[Yeltsin] I grew up in a simple Russian family with a modest life-style. I have not had expensive gifts lavished on me. I like people to give me simple, useful things. I need an electric razor.... Mine has worn out. Because I am a man of sporting interests, I can fantasize in that area. I would not refuse such a gift as a tennis racket. I have a powerful shot and my rackets soon break. Old friends know my habits, they know that I do not like expensive or fancy gifts.

[Gamov] What present could KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA give you? After all, we consider ourselves your old friends. Although we do criticize you.... We know that sometimes you take offense at us.

[Yeltsin] You cannot shield yourself from criticism. This was my choice. We have reached this point through the barriers of censorship. Now it is necessary to "bear responsibility," as the saying goes. As a gift I should like...KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA not to be abusive. Not without good reason. Or at least not every day.

[Gamov] Boris Nikolayevich, bearing in mind that you are president...what kind of gift would you like?

[Yeltsin] From Russia?

[Gamov] Yes.

[Yeltsin] I would like more peace in Russia today than there was yesterday. I want no more bloodshed. I want children to play peacefully under a peaceful roof. I want the poor and the old to be able to bear the hardships of life more easily. I am ready to work for that. I want to celebrate my next birthday in a country which is more peaceful and more prosperous.

[Gamov] What flowers do you like?

[Yeltsin] Roses.... Only they have thorns now. I have prices in mind. But there are no roses without thorns.

[Gamov] Where will you celebrate your birthday?

[Yeltsin] Where normal people celebrate their birthday—with their family. With my wife, children, grandchildren, and friends.

Filatov Warns Elections May Go Against Reformers

LD0102115994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] At a meeting with regional presidential representatives on Monday [31 January], administrative chief Sergey Filatov voiced concern that the line-up of political forces in the local elections could end up similar to the outcome of the Federal Assembly elections.

There are at least two grounds for these concerns. The first is the socio-economic situation in the regions, leading electors not to vote for well-considered policies. The second is the democrats' lack of unity.

The meeting heard the opinion that electoral legislation needs fine-tuning, in particular to provide for second rounds of voting for candidates to local legislatures.

Filatov stressed that the president's supervisory agencies will set up bodies to oversee discipline in executive authorities in the regions. There will be one department of the head of state's administration to work with public organizations, with account taken of the forthcoming local elections.

Filatov Fears Nationalism in Regional Elections

LD3101185494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1724 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow January 31 TASS—Head of the Presidential Administration Sergey Filatov fears that nationalist and Communist leaders who offer easy solutions to difficult problems, like Vladimir Zhirinovskiy did during election campaign, may emerge victorious in the upcoming Russian regional polls in March.

He voiced his concern at a meeting with presidential regional representatives on Monday saying that "the balance of political forces in local polls can resemble the results of elections to the Federal Assembly (Parliament)".

Filatov's deputy Sergey Krasavchenko added that there are two reasons for the fears.

The first one is the difficult economic situation in regions "which sometimes makes voters support not well-drafted programmes, but those who promise to quickly solve all problems", he said referring to Zhirinovskiy.

The second reason is the split of democratic forces, according to Krasavchenko who proposed to introduce the second round of elections in the regions to help democrats unite in case they face a failure after the first round.

He also urged the representatives to control the fulfilment of the decisions of the president and the government so that people could see that reforms become more socially-oriented.

Edict on Presidential Commissions, Councils Staff

PM3101130394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Jan 94 First Edition p 1

[Edict No. 222 of the Russian Federation president, dated 26 January 1994: "On Full-Time State Positions on Russian Federation Presidential Commissions and Councils"]

[Text] In connection with the coming into force of the Russian Federation Constitution and with a view to streamlining the activities of Russian Federation presidential commissions and councils, I decree that:

1. It be prescribed that work on Russian Federation presidential commissions and councils shall be performed on a voluntary basis and does not constitute federal state service.

2. Full-time state posts on Russian Federation presidential commissions and councils may be introduced by decisions of the Russian Federation president.

3. The full-time state posts of chairman of the Russian Federation Presidential Commission for Citizenship Issues, chairman of the Russian Federation Presidential Commission for Pardons, and chairman of the Russian Federation Presidential Commission for State Awards shall be preserved.

4. The Russian Federation President's Administration shall release workers on Russian Federation presidential commissions and councils in accordance with Russian Federation legislation.

5. This edict does not extend to workers on the apparatus of Russian Federation presidential commissions and councils.

6. This edict comes into force from the moment it is published.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
[Dated] Moscow, the Kremlin, 26 January 1994
No. 222

Russia's Choice Favors 'Effective Government'

LD3101185594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1644 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The Russia's Choice [RC] Party in a statement to INTERFAX on Monday, said it was in favor of "a viable and effective government capable of embracing far-reaching reforms and ensuring order and stability in the society."

RC denies media speculation that its criticism of the government's social and economic measures is caused by its abhorrence of the idea of a strong government in Russia.

The statement says RC is in favor of reducing the army of government bureaucrats and their privilege of distributing resources and issue licences and quotas which is the breeding ground of iniquities, corruption and bribes. The party spells out support for "a small and thrifty state, but for a highly professional government."

The statement says that is the reason why the RC is opposed to the idea of numerous benefits and privileges to members of the State Duma and the construction of a new parliament building.

Yazov's Testimony at SCSE Trial Detailed

PM3101145794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Jan 94 p 2

[Aleksandr Pelts report: "Case of the State Committee for the State of Emergency: What Orders Did Mikhail Gorbachev Give?"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Supreme Court Military Collegium has been hearing Marshal Dmitriy Yazov, former USSR defense minister, practically all this week. As KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already stressed, the examination of one of the State Committee for the State of Emergency's key figures gives rise to many questions, and not only from state prosecution representatives.

Yazov stated the precise number of troops brought into the capital and also told of the subunits which were to have reinforced this grouping. In his opinion, halting the process of the USSR's disintegration was entirely practicable in these conditions. Just one small thing was lacking—plans to introduce a state of emergency had to be supported by Mikhail Gorbachev.

During the examination it also emerged that troops had been brought into Moscow even earlier and what is more, Yazov stressed, often on Gorbachev's oral instructions. This took place three or four times in 1990-1991, as a rule prior to the opening of the next Supreme Soviet session and on holidays. The president's edict on joint patrolling by Ministry of Internal Affairs and Defense Ministry forces served as the basis for this.

There is another aspect of the examination which is of no mean importance. Yazov stressed that many leaders of former Union republics—Georgia, Lithuania, and Ukraine—had reacted to the State Committee for the State of Emergency members' plans "with understanding." True, it is difficult to judge how deep and sincere this "understanding" was. Most likely the "let's wait and see" principle was operating here.

However much the Military Collegium tries to avoid the trial's political slant, it nonetheless emerges from time to time. Thus, during a recess between sessions (on Thursday) [27 January] defendant Anatoliy Lukyanov went up to Roman Barsegyan, state prosecution representative, and asked him: "Why are you participating in this sordid affair and what will happen to you after the trial?" Barsegyan regarded this as a blatant attempt to put pressure on a prosecutor's office representative, which is what he told the court members after the recess. The Military Collegium called on all participants in the trial to "observe propriety."

On Friday the examination of Yazov went on behind closed doors, so the press was not allowed into the courtroom. It has been ascertained that former USSR KGB Chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov also answered questions from the court, state prosecution, attorneys, and defendants yesterday.

The next session in the case of the State Committee for the State of Emergency will take place next Tuesday [1 February].

Coup Plotters Trial Adjourned Indefinitely

LD3101184094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1625 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By CRIME-PRESS correspondent Yuriy Shcherban]

[Text] Moscow January 31 TASS—The trial of organisers of the 1991 abortive Soviet coup adjourned indefinitely again because of an illness of one of the accused, CRIME PRESS learned from the court on Monday.

This time it is Former KGB Chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov who is ill. The court did not say what the disease was.

The trial has already adjourned several times because of bad health of several defendants.

On Tuesday the court planned to begin interrogating Oleg Sheynin, former secretary of the Soviet Communist Party.

Prosecutor Explains Lawsuit Against Zhirinovskiy

MK0102105094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 1 Feb 94 p 5

[Interview with Viktor Kruglov, prosecutor of the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office Administration for the Enforcement of National Security and Interethnic Relations Laws, by Sergey Kaverin under the "Only for KURANTY" rubric: "Zhirinovskiy Under Probe"; place and date not given]

[Text] Let us remind our readers that in mid-December KURANTY published excerpts from Mr. Zhirinovskiy's election speech to naval officers at a party devoted to the 300th anniversary of the Russian Navy at the Estrada Theater. On that occasion Vladimir Volfovich openly called for "a war to be provoked between mountain tribes..." The author of these lines witnessed the bloodcurdling "revelations." It turned out that the "Bersenevskaya [after Bersenevskaya Embankment, location of the Estrada Theater] calls" of Russia's chief liberal were not the least in bringing a lawsuit against Zhirinovskiy.

So, your correspondent met with Viktor Kruglov, prosecutor of the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office Administration for the Enforcement of National Security and Interethnic Relations Laws.

[Kaverin] Viktor Alekseyevich, how did the "Zhirinovskiy case" came about?

[Kruglov] Our administration and I personally have been dealing with aspects of Zhirinovskiy's political activity that are of interest to us. We have focused on four main incidents: the well-known ruling by the Third

Party Information Court of 10 December 1993; second, an article in your newspaper; third, the incident involving Zhirinovskiy and Gdlyan, which took place on the night of 12 and 13 December at the Kremlin Palace of Congresses. The last incident is the book "The Last Dash to the South," published by Zhirinovskiy. We have considered all the facts together. The lawsuit was brought under Article 71 of the Russian Federation Criminal Code—"propaganda of war." The decision on bringing a lawsuit was made at the level of the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office leadership.

[Kaverin] But was is done at your initiative?

[Kruglov] Let us clarify: On the basis of our investigatory materials.

[Kaverin] What steps will be taken against Zhirinovskiy upon his return from abroad?

[Kruglov] First, the Russian general prosecutor should determine who will investigate the criminal case. Once he makes up his mind on that, the division that will be tasked with the investigation will resolve all the matters—of course, according to the law. The mechanism of such an investigation is well known: Subpoenas, interrogations. The investigation will be carried out in full as any investigation of an ordinary criminal case.

[Kaverin] How will the investigation square with the immunity Zhirinovskiy enjoys as a deputy?

[Kruglov] According to the new Russian Federation Constitution, the status of a Russian Federation State Duma deputy is not an obstacle to bringing a lawsuit and investigating the case. The Constitution stipulates completely clearly and unequivocally that State Duma approval is required for arresting a deputy, searching his or her place, or detaining him or her. Let me repeat: Arrest, search, and detention. That is to say, a criminal lawsuit against a deputy may be brought and the case may be investigated according to general rules, and only later, depending on the results of the investigation—if reasons for a search, detention, or arrest emerge—will the general prosecutor make a petition to the State Duma requesting that this or that deputy be stripped of his immunity on the basis of the presented investigation results. Let me recall that in accordance with the constitution in force at the time, the Supreme Soviet had to be petitioned so as to bring a criminal lawsuit itself against the deputy.

[Kaverin] Still, Viktor Alekseyevich, let us try to simulate the situation: What if, say, Zhirinovskiy does not show up under the subpoena. What will he be threatened with in this event?

[Kruglov] Let us begin by stating that he is obliged to show up in the first place. Because until charges are brought against him he is technically considered a witness. And he will be subpoenaed for questioning precisely in that capacity. If he still does not come, the investigator will have to react.

[Kaverin] How? What measures are provided for in the law for this situation?

[Kruglov] An ordinary citizen risks being forcibly brought before the court if he does not have good reasons for his failure to appear. This is enforced by the militia. But this action has an element of enforcement to it, so it can effectively be interpreted as a detention—one of the three (!) instances where deputies enjoy immunity.

[Kaverin] Then what we have is a closed circle: in order to arrest or detain a guilty deputy one needs weighty reasons and the State Duma's "OK." But in order to give this "OK" the Duma needs facts that the investigation is unable to obtain from the deputy...

[Kruglov] This is correct, to a certain extent. But you should take into account that any criminal case is based not only on testimony of the person under investigation. There should be some other ideas, materials, documents, witnesses' testimonies, evidence produced by expert appraisals. In short, we need an objective record. This is why even though a deputy may evade giving testimony as a witness, this does not mean that a sufficient amount of evidence would not be collected to press charges against him. I would like to repeat that all said above is only theoretical in nature, but specifically these questions concerning the suspect will be decided upon by an investigator. The investigator who, under the law, inquires into the case and makes all decisions independently.

[Kaverin] What is your opinion—how long will the investigation last?

[Kruglov] I do not know, this is a complex matter. It depends on a huge number of circumstances.

Russian TV Chief Paints 'Very Gloomy' Picture

PM3101140994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Jan 94 p 1

[Interview with Anatoliy Lysenko, general director of the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, by Vladimir Zaynetdinov and Valeriy Gorchakov; place and date not given: "Evening Call to Anatoliy Lysenko. Is It Becoming Quieter on the Screens?"]

[Text] It is entirely likely that millions of television viewers of the Russian channel may soon be left without their favorite serial "Santa Barbara," the "A" program, and live relays of sports matches. The volume of television and radio broadcasts has been halved—the Ministry of Finance has cut the budget of Russian television by one-half. Anatoliy Lysenko, general director of the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, has painted a very gloomy picture.

[Lysenko] This year we will need almost 1 trillion rubles [R] to be able to work normally. Of this, 77 percent goes automatically to the Ministry of Communications to pay for broadcasting. The meager funding is liable to cause the loss of the broadcasting network on the large territory of Russia. Relay transmitters will be closed down.

The sum is a large one, and yet this is a political issue rather than an economic one. Today television and radio are the only links between individual regions in Russia and the center. If we come off the air in these regions, then the air space will definitely be pulled apart by local television companies. The disintegration of the single television air space may mark the beginning of territorial disintegration. What about the Russian-speaking population in "nearby foreign countries"? For example, the Baltic states only relay our channel. There the price of communications services is even higher.

No one in the government is particularly looking into the heart of the matter today. They believe that having "Ostankino" will be enough but, after all, even "Ostankino" has had its budget cut by 50 percent. With the disappearance of the Russian television station, Russian national television as such will cease to exist. "Ostankino" is an interstate channel.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Maybe it is worth thinking about national commercial television? Independent television!

[Lysenko] The idea is a good one, but economically impossible today. What commercial structure would pump billions into something just like that, with practically zero profit? In our country everyone has gotten used to the idea that television is free.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What lies in store for the employees of the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company?

[Lysenko] Approximately a 40-percent reduction—primarily among the journalists. Televized shows, the most attractive programs, will have to be given up—they are the most expensive. We will keep children's broadcasts to the end, and, naturally, "Vesti."

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What is the solution?

[Lysenko] The only thing that can save us is state support. But somehow I do not believe we will get any. In the three years of our existence there have already been five edicts of the Russian Federation president on support to the Russian television company, but when it comes down to it, it turns out that there is no money. This is frequently stated by people who have ratified the latest edict. We have nothing and no one to pin our hopes on. Boris Nikolayevich has the last word.

Poltoranin: 'Mafia-Like' Structures Ruling Media

LD0102094794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0929 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow February 1 ITAR-TASS—The fate of the "fourth power" in today's Russia is not enviable, according to Mikhail Poltoranin, a man known to be close to President Boris Yeltsin, former chief of the Federal Information Centre and presently chairman of the Russian State Duma's Information Policy Committe.

According to him, the lifting of tough state control over the press does not mean the press is now free, because mafia-like structures are all too eager to snatch control over information outlets.

"Unless the press becomes economically independent, one monopolist will only be replaced by another," Poltoranin said.

For this reason, demonopolisation of the press is seen by him as the key issue in the work of the Russian State Duma's Information Policy Committee he heads.

Poltoranin, who said in an interview published by ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA today that the committee he is now heading has many ideas concerning the demonopolisation of the press, stressed that his ultimate goal was to "to deprive all power structures of their own pocket information outlets".

"All publications must be independent", Poltoranin said, "and the government should subsidise new publications only during the first year of publishing. If authorities want their decrees and resolutions to be published, they must sign contracts," Poltoranin concluded.

Vice Premiers To Oversee Ministries

LD3101150794 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] In the reshuffled government, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry for Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources, and the State Committee for Sanitary Epidemics Supervision will most probably be overseen by not just one vice premier, as was the case before, but by three—Oleg Soskovets, Aleksandr Zaveryukha, and Yuriy Yarov respectively. ITAR-TASS correspondents learned this from sources in the aforementioned ministries. The closely related problems of health, ecology, and sanitary and epidemiological welfare, which cannot be solved without constant cooperation, will thus be divided into the spheres of influence of the different supervisors.

Economic Issues

Government Debt to Defense Industry Reported

LD3101192294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1825 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS observer Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow January 31 TASS—The last date for the payment by the state to Russian defence complex enterprises for deliveries of arms and military hardware, manufactured according to scientific and designing orders over the past one year, has expired today. But the dues exceeding one trillion roubles has not been credited to the account of the Russian Defence Ministry which means the money will not be returned to defence industry workers.

Without these funds scientific research institutes and design bureaus will not be in a position to meet the defence supply orders for the year 1994 which were approved by the government. According to specialists, it will have a negative effect on the implementation of the long-term armament programme, the main directions and priorities of which were stated by Deputy Defence Minister Andrey Kokoshin at a session of the Russian Security Council held on December 19 and were approved by President Boris Yeltsin.

The hopes of the defence industry workers that the current year will turn out to be the year of its revival have also not come true. For the time being many samples of Russian arms, which are considerably superior to similar arms manufactured elsewhere in the world, cannot be produced on a large scale due to deficit of funds. This not only concerns firearms brought to perfection, but also principally new kinds of military hardware, in particular, aviation and anti-aircraft rocket complexes and means of communications.

According to Director General of the Aviation Production Amalgamation (Komsomolsk-on-Amur) Anatoliy Petrov, Russia makes the best multipurpose interceptor-fighter aircraft "SU-27", but not a single aircraft was delivered to the airforce. Fighter aircraft in different finishing stages are standing unclaimed on the premises of the plant.

The same fate awaits other kinds of military hardware, including invisible to radar low-flying interceptor "MIG-31", fire-support (tank destroyer) "KA-50" helicopter, well-known as "Black Shark" and possessing tremendous flying capabilities for its class bomber "TU- 22M", according to specialists.

In order not to become an outsider tomorrow, Russian armourers have to find non-traditional ways to perfect their production. But they need support, first of all financial.

Bank Has 'Sufficient Foreign Currency Reserves'

PM3101125594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Jan 94 First Edition p 1

[Item from roundup of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, ITAR-TASS reports: "Central Bank Has Reserves to Control Ruble Exchange Rate"]

[Text] "The Central Bank of Russia has sufficient foreign currency reserves to enable it, even in the current situation, to control the ruble's movements against the dollar," Aleksandr Khandruyev, deputy chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, has stated.

The Central Bank of Russia has recently spent around $1 billion to stabilize the ruble. The bank created its foreign currency reserves largely thanks to its vigorous purchases of foreign currency last year. According to preliminary Central Bank of Russia estimates, the surge of inflation in January 1994 reached approximately 20-25 percent.

No 'Large-Scale Emission' To Cover Deficit

LD3101185894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1644 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The Central Bank of Russia [CBR] does not plan a large-scale emission to cover the budget deficit in the first three months of 1994, Interfax was told Monday by the Bank's Deputy Chairman Aleksandr Khandruyev.

The deficit for the first three months is yet unknown, but the sum of Rbs 24,600 cited by some sources is too high, Interfax was told Monday by another source in the Central Bank.

The Finance Ministry has said that the figure does not correspond to the real state of affairs. The source says that it is necessary to wait for the government's budget message which will specify figures.

Earlier Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was expected to make a report to the Federation Council on the country's budget for 1994. However, speaker Vladimir Shumeyko told deputies that the report had been postponed.

On February 18 President Yeltsin is expected to speak before parliament on the social and economic development of Russia. In view of this, Chernomyrdin is likely to specify some provisions of his report with account of the presidential address.

Before the end of 1993 the Central Bank bought at the Finance Ministry precious metals and stones to the sum of Rbs 6800 Bn rubles which have been spent to cover the budget deficit, Interfax was told by a spokesman for the Central Bank.

The meeting of the government commission on credit policies that took place early last week decided to pay to grain producers. The meeting attended also by the former Finance Minister Boris Fedorov, chairman of the State Property Management Committee Anatoliy Chubays, the Central Bank's Deputy Chairman Tatyana Paramonova decided to set aside for the purpose some Rbs 3000 Bn.

1993 Economic Performance Assessed

PM3101160194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jan 94 First Edition p 6

[Otto Latsis article: "Russia's Economy Was En Route to Stabilization During Government Shake-Up. Next Few Months Will Tell Whether It Will Prove Possible To Continue This Route"]

[Text] The Russian State Committee for Statistics [Goskomstat] has announced the main statistics for the country's socioeconomic position in 1993. They indicate that the general slump has not been halted, but is slowing down and gradually assuming a structured nature. The decline has been stopped in some important areas, but there is no growth as yet and the stabilization is hardly reliable. Growth has begun in some spheres, but the precrisis high has by no means been attained as yet.

Enigmatic and Not So Enigmatic Figures

GDP dropped 12 percent on last year's level when it in turn fell 19 percent. In other words, the decline has slowed, but it is still considerable. At the same time the structure of GDP use has improved in some respects. The proportion of spending on final national consumption rose from 53.6 percent of total GDP use in 1992 to 57.8 percent in 1993. Spending on domestic consumption totaled 40.5 percent of GDP against 35.9 percent in 1992. The proportion of gross accumulation of fixed capital, along with the proportion of net exports (minus imports) remained virtually unchanged.

What has changed, how has consumption risen? The growth in material working capital dropped dramatically from 11.6 percent of GDP in 1992 to 5.3 percent in 1993. In the main this is attributable to the dramatic reduction in material working capital within production stocks.

The reduction in stocks at certain enterprises may have been excessive. But this process is by and large beneficial. Remember that in the early eighties economists spoke with growing disquiet of the excessive growth of stocks. At that time economic growth was in actual fact a sham: The entire growth in social production was used to increase stocks that were lying idle. Now the process has been reversed: The real decline in social consumption is less than the slump in production—owing to the reduction in stocks.

That is to a considerable extent the reason for what at first glance seem enigmatic figures. Thus, notwithstanding the slump in production, the population's real monetary income was 9 percent up on the previous year. Admittedly, that is still only 57 percent of the 1991 level, since there was a sharp decline of almost 50 percent in 1992. But nonetheless recovery has begun. Total commodity turnover was 102 percent of the 1992 level and 99 percent of the 1991 figures. Total exports were 101.4 percent and 84 percent of the 1992 and 1991 levels respectively. At the same time exports were 16 billion [rubles] ahead of imports (it is hard to remember anything like that happening in our history).

And here are some more figures.

The number of people with income below the minimum subsistence level in December 1993 was 3.7 percent up on December 1992, totaling 39.6 million, or over one-fourth of the entire population. The consolidated consumer price index rose 9.4-fold in 1993 as opposed to 26-fold in 1992, and has thus risen 245-fold in two years. If you remember that the index also rose 2.6-fold in 1991, in three years there has been more than a 600-fold rise. At the same time in December the average wage was 130,000 rubles [R], an 8.1-fold increase last year and a 109-fold increase in the past two years—less than one-half the price rises since liberalization.

By the end of the year over 24,000 kolkhozes and sovkhozes (95 percent of the total) had reregistered. One-third of them decided to retain their former status. Moreover, 11,500 varying companies, around 300 open-type joint-stock companies, 400 enterprise subsidiary farms, and 2,000 agricultural cooperatives have been set up based on kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Some 87,000 private farms have appeared in a year: As of 1 January 1994 there were 270,000 of them in Russia (with an average land area of 42 hectares per farm). Agricultural production in the public sector is on the decline, but it is on the increase in the individual sector and this is making it possible to slow down or halt entirely the slump in the production of certain foodstuffs. Coupled with the sharp increase in the population's horticultural and truck garden activity, the urban population included, this ensured a noticeable increase in consumption of all basic foodstuffs, apart from fish products, in 1993. The 1991 level has been regained and even exceeded in a number of areas. All this is particularly impressive if you bear in mind that imports of grain (and meat and sugar) were cut drastically in 1993 for the first time in many years and at the same time reliable grain stocks were set up before the new harvest. There can be no recurrence today of the situation in early 1992, when the population's grain supply was directly dependent on the arrival of the latest grain shipments from the United States.

Nevertheless, agriculture is in an extremely grave position. Prices of agricultural equipment, fuel, and fertilizers are rising far more rapidly than prices of agricultural produce. The profitability of crop farming produce dropped from 211 percent in 1992 to 92 percent in 1993 and thus remains extraordinarily high. The profitability of livestock produce, which dropped from 42 to 15 percent respectively, could have been deemed adequate had it not been shored up by subsidies. Wool production was unprofitable even with subsidies, which promoted a reduction in the sheep and goat herd.

There was an unequivocal deterioration in the state of trade and the consumer market. In 1992 the retail trade's foodstuff availability coefficient was around 50 percent and the nonfood commodity availability coefficient 70 percent (an immeasurable improvement on the empty stores of 1991) and in 1993 the figures were 60-70 and 80-90 percent respectively. All efficiency indicators were considerably higher in private trade than in state trading outlets. After the slump of 1991-1992 consumption of nonfood commodities rose once again.

As for the market in technical and production output, one conclusion from the Goskomstat report is simply worth citing: "In 1993 there was no problem with shortages of resources. The main condition determining enterprise and organization procurement was their effective demand."

Will Industry Be Able To Restructure Itself?

Foreign trade results are extremely conflicting. The sizeable surplus balance of trade represents an undoubted success, but it has cost us too dear and is hardly a long-term phenomenon. It is only the reduction in grain imports, which provided $1 billion out of a total surplus of $16 billion, that is undoubtedly beneficial and effective for the country. The reduction—by 50 percent—in imports of machinery and equipment, providing a "saving" of around $7 billion, and medicine (by almost 75 percent compared with the previous year) is not at all beneficial.

The already backward export structure deteriorated still further. We are buying fewer machines and equipment, but on the other hand exports of crude oil, petroleum products, gas, coal, iron ore, ammonia, cast iron, and aluminum, in other words nonreproducible natural resources that involve a low degree of processing and correspondingly low revenue rose considerably. The worst thing is that last year average export prices of Russian oil, petroleum products, gas, coal, iron ore, cast iron, and aluminum fell. While the extraction and transportation costs of all these commodities are rising rapidly.

In many cases it was still profitable for enterpries to export these products only because of the drastically low ruble rate of exchange and what were until recently low transportation costs. Now transportation rates are close to real expenditure on transportation and the ruble rate of exchange, although still very low, has nonetheless fallen considerably slower than prices on the domestic market have risen. In effect although the artificial export incentives have survived, they are appreciably weaker and the profitability of exporting aluminum ingots, round timber, and coal is already in question. Oil exports will also be in jeopardy in the future.

The question in effect is whether Russian industry will be able to restructure itself to export primarily machinery and equipment and other commodities with a high degree of processing before the favorable, but short-lived market situation disappears and thus maintain an active trade balance. Our only salvation lies in boosting the competitiveness of Russian goods. Regrettably, the industrial lobby and the government, which is obviously succumbing to pressure from the former, are still taking a different direction. The Russian market is being closed to foreign commodities by incredibly high duties. Thus the population is being made to pay for the monopolism and the backwardness of Russian industry, and that industry is doomed to lag forever behind its rivals. If it does not learn to withstand foreign competition at home, much less will it have a chance of conquering these rivals on other countries' bleak markets.

Response to Critics of Monetarism

This example is just one of many that make one think about the choice of course now being made deep within the government. Primarily the choice of an economic policy in its most general form. The main position that has been repeatedly stated over the last few years by government leaders is this: We will operate not only by monetarist methods. This should be investigated more carefully since I think that both the supporters of this policy and its critics are guilty of inaccuracies.

When it said that there are microeconomic instruments as well as monetarist macroeconomic instruments, this idea is for some reason put forward as a reproof to the monetarists. But no one can after all claim that macroeconomic levers, above all setting state finances to rights, are not necessary. I think that few people would also dare to say that microeconomic actions can be successful without setting the microeconomy to rights. Everyone realises that both are necessary. But it is not those countless sectoral department officials who have done nothing to streamline the microeconomic structure who are presented as being to blame for the economy's hitherto untreated ills, but those who are making abortive attempts to bring about macroeconomic stabilization. It is the finance minister's business to watch over the state budget and other departments should deal with each enterprises.

However, critics of monetarism in the sectoral lobby are sincerely convinced that they are right. Many of them think that the Finance Ministry's "miserliness" is to blame for everything: If it were to give us state money to our heart's content, we would sort everything out. One can perhaps thank fate that the state purse is no longer big enough for everyone to take their fill—otherwise spendthrift production units would continue ad infinitum. No, activity at microeconomic level can be successful not despite but only on the basis of monetarist policy.

If commitment to the old habits persists, what the premier said—"not only by monetarist methods"—may indeed entail a return to the long since compromised administration by decree. With a competent market approach it is quite possible to combine the two avenues in the state's economic activity. On the one hand, a return to regulating prices and rates of exchange, to ceilings and quotas, and broadening subsidies and preferential loans will do no good. On the other, the state can help step up enterprises' market activity.

Nonmonetarist activity by the state is a possibility. But on one condition: Provided that it does not contravene, but rests on monetarist policy, and utilizes its fruits. Only when the means of arriving at this kind of combination have been found, when people have ceased reducing the task to the slowing down of financial stabilization, will one be able to believe that our state is indeed committed to the reform course.

Military & Energy Issues

Yeltsin, Grachev Agree To Withdraw Warships

LD3101183794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1644 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev have agreed on the need to withdraw warships from Kronshtadt, a Russian naval stronghold since the 18th century, Mayor of St. Petersburg Anatoliy Sobchak told Interfax.

Governor of Kronshtadt Viktor Surikov gave two reasons to explain the move.

On the one hand, part of the warships appear to find themselves in a trap after the construction of a dam in the Bay of Finland left them with only one outlet to the Baltic Sea.

On the other, there are plans to promote tourist business following a decision to set up a Free Economic Zone [FEZ] in Kronshtadt whose status of a closed city hampers the project.

The FEZ project provides for the construction of a sea port at Kronshtadt with an annual capacity of 8.5 Mn tons to be increased to 12-13 Mn tons later which can bring about $15 Mn in annual revenues.

The local authorities are also keen to re-commission a facility for cleaning oil-containing waste dumped secretly by Russian and foreign ships in the Baltic Sea. The withdrawal of Russian warships from Kronshtadt will be taken in stages.

In the meantime, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev is expected to visit the base in mid-February to discuss all problems in detail. It is not ruled out that the Russian Navy may deploy its own training center and ships at Kronshtadt to train navy personnel for Russia and other countries.

Russian units deployed at the Leningrad navy base are expected to be redeployed at the town of Primorsk and elsewhere.

A special working group including officials of the Defence Ministry, Navy, Leningrad navy base and the administration of St. Petersburg and Kronshtadt will meet to discuss the schedule of the Navy's withdrawal from the Kotlin Island.

Military Council Discusses Housing, Discipline

PM0102101794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Jan 94 p 1

[Report by Lieutenant Colonel Aleksandr Stepanov of the Ground Forces Press Center: "Alarming Housing Situation"]

[Text] The state of and prospects for work to sell released military property and practical measures to maintain law and order and military discipline among troops were discussed at a Ground Forces Military Council session 27 January this year.

It was noted there that last year there were great hopes for increased social protection for servicemen, and in particular for at least a partial solution to the housing problem, thanks to the possibility of using High Command resources, which it was intended to obtain by selling released military property. But rampant inflation, bureaucracy, and payment delays reduced the results of this work to virtually nothing. People lost interest in it. In addition, the Ground Forces are the only branch of the Russian Federation Armed Forces not to receive 20 percent of the money earned from the sale of military property, to which it is entitled under a defense minister's order. This is at a time when a most alarming situation regarding the provision of housing for servicemen is being noted right here. The families of officers and warrant officers have been waiting no less than five to seven years to receive apartments. Thus, there are now over 200 officers without apartments in the High Command apparatus.

It is therefore no accident that the second of the questions discussed was considered closely with the social aspect. An officer without an apartment, who feels that he is not shown respect by the state and society and who has extremely limited material means is hardly likely to be in a position to unreservedly give his all to the service. Can he really be expected to take resolute action to strengthen military discipline and law and order in a subordinate unit or subunit if he himself is experiencing an infringement of his civil rights?

The results of the Military Council session were summed up by Colonel General Vladimir Semenov, commander in chief of Ground Forces.

Contract Service Promoted in Border Troops

LD3101174294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1225 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 31 Jan—One in 10 Russian border guards among the rank and file and the sergeants is now on contract service. This way of building up border troops in Russia's federal border service is regarded as promising and makes it possible to resolve the personnel shortage to a considerable extent. By the end of this year, one in four, and in another year, one in two Russian border guards will be on contract service, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the press service of the Russian border troops.

It is justifiable to stake on building up border troops on a contract basis, it is believed here. Those on contract service are distinguished by endurance, good discipline, and professionalism. If before they used to be sent to logistics subunits, nowadays they are entrusted with the main posts of junior commanders and service in leading specialities.

According to the press service, contract servicemen are eager to go to "hot spots." They regard service at the outer borders of CIS states as prestigious and in line with Russia's national interests.

According to the same source, women, too, have been enlisted in border guard service of late. There are 2,500 women in Russian border troops now.

'Safe' Nuclear Reactors To Be Installed by 2004

LD3101152094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1440 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Marina Barinova]

[Text] Moscow January 31 TASS—The nuclear power engineering industry of Russia will get almost absolutely safe reactor for its nuclear power stations by 2004, this ultimate target has been approved by the state programme of the Government of Russia, for the implementation of which dozens of leading institutes and scientific centres of the Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Atomic Energy and Ministry of Science have joined forces.

The new reactor has been named as a hybrid one, since its system will be an amalgamation of the nuclear and thermonuclear subsystem, chief scientific research supervisor, academician and Nobel prize laureate Nikolay Basov told ITAR-TASS. According to the scientist, "only this union of ideas" can guarantee the complete safety of the nuclear installation.

The Russian project of nuclear power engineering of the XXI century has passed all-round expertise in scientific centres of Russia. Experts of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have especially noted the original technology of the use of laser source of neutrons in the future reactor.

Foreign colleagues, according to academician Basov, have highly appreciated the degree of burning out of nuclear fuel and the possibility of using different kinds of nuclear fuels in the nuclear-thermonuclear reactor, including uranium of natural isotope composition. Thus a possibility of the efficient use of spent radioactive waste has been opened up, which is quite important for Russia in its conditions of the destruction of nuclear weapons.

Federal Assembly

Federation Council Approves Ingushetia, Ossetia State of Emergency

LD3101131194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1147 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 31 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—The Federation Council approved the Russian president's decree on extending the state of emergency by two months in the conflict zone on the territories of Ingushetia and North Ossetia. This was reported by Aleksandr Dzasokhov, State Duma deputy from North Ossetia, who is attending the Federation Council for the discussion of this issue.

Aleksandr Dzasokhov reported that "the Federation Council set up a special commission which within 24 hours is to work out measures for stabilizing the situation in the conflict zone." In the deputy's personal opinion, "in order to settle the conflict the leaders of the two republics should, above all, increase their role in the settlement of the conflict by dint of their own personal capabilities with the participation of the Provisional Administration of the conflict zone."

The closed session of the Federation Council continues.

Federation Council Makes Appointments

LD3101211294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1854 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The Federation Council, the upper house of the Russian parliament, on Monday elected retired general Petr Shirshov, 48, Chairman of the parliamentary Defense and Security Committee.

Vasily Tarasenko, a 43-year-old lawyer from Samara, was put at the head of the Committee for Federation Affairs.

The election of a third deputy chairman of the Federation Council was postponed until the end of February, Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko said.

The house will meet again at 16:00 on Tuesday to elect chairpersons for the Budget and Finance Committee and the Committee for Agrarian Policy.

The Federation Council also decided to issue a resolution approving the presidential decree extending the duration of the state of emergency in parts of North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

Fails To Elect Deputy Speaker

LD3101151594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1425 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow January 31 TASS—The Federation Council, the upper chamber of the Russian Parliament, failed to elect the third deputy speaker on Monday.

Chamber Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko has two deputies and one post remains vacant. Shumeyko nominated two candidates for the post—head of Voronezh region administration Aleksandr Kovalev and Chairman of the regional council of the Leningrad region Vadim Gustov.

The region retained the old name in contrast to the administrative centre which was renamed into St. Petersburg.

However, Kovalev refused to run for the post, while Gustov lacked 15 votes to become deputy speaker. 71 lawmakers supported him instead of the necessary minimum of 86.

Duma Proposes Principles of Legal Continuity

LD3101150094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1403 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow January 31 TASS—The State Duma has prepared a draft declaration on making the Federal Assembly a legal successor to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation in the field of lawmaking.

When explaining the meaning of the document, Vladimir Isakov, chairman of the State Duma's committee for lawmaking and court and legal reform, said that "the chain of lawmaking has been broken".

"There are facts when non-legislative bodies cancelled or suspended the laws, which disorganizes the work of the legal system," he said.

The declaration is called on to put an end to these negative developments and designate the principles of legal continuity.

According to Mikhail Mityukov, deputy chairman of the State Duma, individual provisions of the draft still "need to be substantially elaborated".

Isakov Comments

LD3101133394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1122 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The Russian State Duma's Legislation Committee has drafted a declaration on the Federal Assembly being the legal successor of the preceding parliament. The draft will be discussed by the party groups and committees, the Committee Chairman Vladimir Isakov told Interfax.

The need for this document, which he described as political, is dictated, he said, by the legal situation in which the country's president decrees "cancellation, amendment, or suspension of Russia's legislation" and "it is not clear what is the chief legislative body."

Isakov said that the original draft had been made by the Agrarian Party, which he heads, and discussed by the Legislation Committee.

The first plenary session of the lower house this week will be held Wednesday, February 2. Isakov believes the State Duma will discuss the structure of its machinery and a bill on the procedure for publication of federal acts and constitutional acts.

He doubted that the full lower house would be able to debate legislation on the Constitutional Court any time soon, even though it had been drafted. He thought that the draft would be thoroughly debated by parliamentary groups and committees because its significance was "political."

Statute on Activity of Duma Deputies Approved

PM3101140194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Jan 94 First Edition p 4

["Temporary Statute on Backing Up Activity of Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Deputies" followed by Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma decree "on the approval of the temporary statute on backing up the activity of Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma deputies"]

[Text] 1. On questions of the deputies' activity deputies of the State Duma enjoy the right to be received immediately by leaders and other officials of the organs of state power, organs of local self-administration, and public associations and also of enterprises, institutions, and organizations irrespective of their organizational and legal form.

The identity card of a State Duma deputy is a document which gives the right to unimpeded access to all organs of state power, organs of local self-administration, all enterprises, and all institutions and organizations.

2. State Duma deputies have the right to demand the immediate elimination of the violation of the law, rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests of citizens and when necessary to demand that the relevant organs and relevant officials halt this violation. An instance of violation can be recorded in a protocol compiled by the deputy or at his demand by a representative of the relevant law enforcement organ.

A State Duma deputy enjoys the right of a deputy to raise a question.

3. Organs of state power, organs of local self-administration, enterprises, institutions, and organizations render assistance to State Duma deputies on questions which arise when they are conducting their activity as deputies.

4. All State Duma deputies irrespective of the post they hold in the State Duma receive the same monthly salary, bonus for their work's special nature and intensiveness, and bonus for length of service.

The State Duma deputy's monthly remuneration includes his salary, a bonus for his work's special nature and intensiveness, length of service bonus, and other bonuses in accordance with existing legislation.

The State Duma chairman has a monthly salary 40 percent higher than that of a State Duma deputy.

5. The monthly salary of a State Duma deputy is set at the level of a federal minister's salary.

A State Duma deputy is paid a monthly bonus for the special nature and intensiveness of his work which is 50 percent of a State Duma deputy's salary and a length of service bonus which is 40 percent of a State Duma deputy's salary and other bonuses in accordance with existing legislation.

Every month State Duma deputies are reimbursed for their expenses connected with their activity as deputies to a sum equal to five minimum wages, which is not taxable.

The monthly remuneration of a State Duma deputy is paid to the deputy from the day he is elected but no earlier than the date he leaves his previous workplace and money to reimburse expenses connected with his deputy's activity is paid from the day he is elected.

The deputy enjoys the right to free telephone calls.

The conditions of medical and consumer services for members of the Russian Federation Government are extended to the State Duma deputy.

When his term expires the State Duma deputy must be given his former job (post) and in its absence another job (post) of equal value at the same or, with his agreement, another enterprise, institution, or organization.

6. A State Duma deputy enjoys the right to free travel across Russian Federation territory by air, rail, motor, and water transport and on all types of urban passenger transport except for taxis and also the right to acquire travel documents out of turn. These rights extend to one assistant accompanying the deputy and also to the person accompanying a deputy who is a Group I invalid.

When a State Duma deputy presents his identity card, the civil aviation agencies or airports, the ticket offices of railroad stations, maritime stations (ports), river stations and landing stages (when tickets are being sold on the day or in advance) must supply the deputy out of turn with a free ticket for one seat in the saloon of an aircraft or helicopter, train sleeping car or compartment, or first or second class cabin of ships of all categories.

A deputy's travel on intercity buses and also on suburban transport facilities where tickets are sold with seat numbers is effected with a free ticket obtained out of turn at the offices of service stations, transport and travel agencies, or directly upon boarding the bus.

A deputy's travel on all types of urban passenger transport (except for taxis) and on suburban trains is on the basis of his State Duma deputy's identity card.

A deputy has the right to make free use of the halls for official delegations at airport, railroad stations, maritime stations (ports), and river stations.

For trips while exercising his powers as deputy on the territory of the Russian Federation, a State Duma deputy is provided with motor transport by the relevant administrations of the components of the Russian Federation and for trips around Moscow and Moscow Oblast official motor transport permanently assigned to him is provided.

The administration heads are personally responsible for creating conditions for the normal activity of State Duma deputies and their assistants.

7. All types of mail and telegraph dispatches by a State Duma deputy are, at his request, dispatched (transmitted), processed, and delivered as government dispatches.

8. State Duma deputies with no permanent place of residence in Moscow are, upon their application, supplied within three months with official living quarters (a furnished apartment with a telephone) to live with members of their family for the duration of their work in the State Duma and these quarters are not subject to privatization.

For the period before they receive official living quarters State Duma deputies are provided with an individual hotel room or, if the deputy wishes, he is reimbursed for his expenditure on renting living quarters to a sum amounting to the cost of one double hotel room in a category "A" hotel.

Here the permanent living quarters occupied by the deputy and members of his family are retained.

9. For the entire duration of his powers a State Duma deputy is issued, within 10 days of the adoption of this temporary statute, with a State Duma deputy's identity card and within one month of the adoption of this temporary statute he is issued with a diplomatic passport.

10. The time during which a State Duma deputy exercises his deputy's powers is recorded in his overall and continuous work record, his record of work in his special area, and in his work (service) record giving him the right to bonuses for length of service and special climatic conditions and to the payment of an award on the basis of his work results over the year.

Servicemen and persons in the rank and file and command personnel of internal affairs organs elected as State Duma deputies suspend their service and are seconded to the State Duma for the period of their fulfillment of their powers as deputies.

11. A State Duma deputy is granted annual paid leave of 48 working days with the payment of a medical treatment grant equal to two months' remuneration.

12. To conduct his activity as a deputy a State Duma deputy is provided with separate official premises in the State Duma building equipped with furniture, government communications facilities, and the necessary office technology.

13. A state Duma deputy and members of his family are paid expenses connected with their move to Moscow to carry out his powers as deputy and expenses connected with their move to their place of residence when his deputy's powers cease.

When he moves to Moscow a deputy is paid a one-off grant equal to one month's salary and each member of his family is paid one half of this sum.

14. A State Duma deputy in his electoral district or on the territory of the Russian Federation component within which this district is situated or in the region determined by the deputy's association or the leader of the relevant state organ of executive power, is provided with separate premises to exercise his powers ss deputy, provided with furniture, communications facilities, and the necessary office technology.

15. A State Duma deputy can have up to five assistants to help him exercise his powers as deputy in the State Duma and in the electoral district or region determined by the deputy's association.

The deputy determines independently the number of his assistants and the size of their monthly remuneration within the limits of the assistants' wages fund, which is set at twice the monthly remuneration of a State Duma deputy including regional coefficients and bonuses paid for working in areas with unfavorable climatic conditions.

A State Duma deputy's assistant for work in the State Duma is taken on for work upon submission from the relevant State Duma deputy on the terms of a short-term labor agreement (contract) for a period not in excess of the period of the State Duma deputy's powers and is also dismissed upon representation from this deputy.

A State Duma deputy's assistant for work in the electoral district or in the region determined by the deputy's association is taken on for work upon submission from the deputy by the leader of the relevant state organ of executive power of the component of the Russian Federation on the terms of a short-term labor agreement (contract) for a period not in excess of the period of the State Duma deputy's powers and is also dismissed upon representation from this deputy.

Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Decree No. 41-1 GD "on the Approval of the Temporary Statute on Backing up the Activity of Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Deputies

The Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma decrees:

1. That the temporary statute on backing up the activity of Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma deputies (attached) be approved.

2. That the Russian Federation Government take the necessary steps to implement the temporary statute on backing up the activity of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma deputies.

3. That the State Duma committees on the State Duma's organizational work and on legislation and juridical and legal reform be instructed to ensure the elaboration of a draft federal law on the status of the Federation Council deputy and the State Duma deputy.

4. That the temporary statute on backing up the activity of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma be put into operation on the day it is adopted.

[Signed] I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma,
[Dated] Moscow, 21 January 1994

Rybkin, Gaydar Lead Poll on Influential Deputies

LD2801210594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1701 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] In accordance with the results of a poll held by the Center of Research in Political Culture of Russia, the State Duma's Speaker Ivan Rybkin and leader of the biggest faction Russia's Choice Yegor Gaydar were named among the most influential deputies of the parliament's lower chamber.

Specialists in political science and journalists specializing in analysis of the parliament's work participated in this poll organized by the independent center of political science led by doctor in historical sciences, Sergey Vasiltsev.

The rate of popularity of the 20 most influential politicians of January assessed on a 10-point scale is as follows: Rybkin 8.0, Gaydar 6.4, Zhirinovskiy 6.3, Zyuganov 5.7, Baburin 5.5, Lukin 5.5, Travkin 5.3, Shakhray 5.1, Mityukov 4.9, Yavlinskiy 4.4, Lukyanov 4.4, Lapshin 4.4, Shokhin 4.4, Yushenkov 4.3, Zatulin 4.0, Kovalev 4.0, Poltoranin 3.9, Isakov 3.7, Burbulis 3.6 and Vlasov 3.4.

Yeltsin Edict on Plenipotentiary Representative

CM0102115793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jan 94 p 1

["Edict of the Russian Federation President on the Plenipotentiary Representative of the Russian Federation President," signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin and dated Moscow, the Kremlin, 18 January 1994, No. 165]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree today entitled "On the Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of the Russian Federation, which says in part: With a view to ensure coordination between the president of the Russian Federation and the Federal Assembly I hereby decree:

1. To introduce as part of the administration of the Russian Federation president the post of the Russian Federation president's plenipotentiary representive in the Federal Assembly

2. To entrust the leader of the Russian Federation President's Administration with the task of:

—Submitting within a week draft statute on the plenipotentiary representative of the president of the Russian Federation in the Federal Assembly, as well proposals on the candidacy of the plenipotentiary representative of the president of the Russian Federation in the Federal Assembly,

—Resolving the issue of ensuring the work of the plenipotentiary representative of the president of the Russian Federation in the Federal Assembly.

[Signed] President Boris Yeltsin
[Dated] Moscow, The Kremlin, 18 January 1994
No. 165

Regional Affairs

Grachev Postpones Visit to Volga

LD3101131294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1224 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Milov]

[Text] Ulyanovsk, 31 Jan—The working visit to the Volga military district by Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev, planned for this week, has been postponed until around 14 February. This was reported to an ITAR-TASS correspondent at the district's press center. According to the latter's information, the aims of the visit have not as yet undergone any changes. These are: to inspect the guards tank division in Perm and a number of other units of the district. It is not ruled out that Pavel Grachev will also visit leading enterprises of the defense complexes in Perm, Samara, and Ulyanovsk Oblasts.

Ingush, North Ossetian Presidents on Edict

LD3101153294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1422 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Ingush President Ruslan Aushev has voiced doubt that the presidential decree on a prolonged state of emergency in North Ossetia and Ingushetia, which was approved Monday by the Federation Council, will be fulfilled. In an interview with reporters after the closed-door session of the upper house of the Russian parliament on Monday, he said that the head of the temporary authority Vladimir Lozovoy, appointed by the president, is not competent enough for his post. Aushev said that due to Lozovoy's position as head of the administration, the presidential decree on returning Ingush refugees to the Prigorodnyy District is not being fulfilled.

Aushev also said that the Federation Council decided to prepare a resolution where it will propose to the president to introduce changes in the decree on a longer state of emergency. He believes it necessary to introduce special rule on the territory of the Prigorodny District where all power would go over to the head of the administration, as well as to withdraw all North Ossetian armed units from the District. "Only federal law enforcement bodies can provide calm in the zone," believes Aushev.

He said that North Ossetian President Galazov has a different view on these problems and is against the return of Ingush refugees.

The president of North Ossetia, deputy to the Federation Council Galazov, supports the president's decree on the whole, but criticizes some of its provisions. In an interview with Interfax, he said that in line with the decree, the help that is being rendered to the republic through the temporary authority will continue depending on how constructive talks are between North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

No one is able to determine the degree of a constructive dialogue. To place such conditions means a lack of common sense, he said. He believes that those who drafted the document asked the president to sign the unfinalized document.

Galazov expressed regret that the proposals and remarks on the draft decree sent by representatives of North Ossetia were not taken into account.

Aushev Charges Edict 'Biased'

LD3101182194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1552 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow January 31 TASS—The debate at the Federation Council (upper chamber of the Russian Parliament) on Monday concerning the Russian president's decree to extend the state of emergency in North Ossetia and Ingushetia was "biased", Ingush President Ruslan Aushev told journalists after the closed meeting of the Federation Council approved the presidential decree.

"This problem should be studied, since many do not know its essence," he added.

He said that the editing commission would prepare a draft decision for this Tuesday's meeting, which will contain some amendments to the decree.

Aushev claimed that amendments should provide, above all, for introducing a direct presidential rule in the conflict area, withdrawing all armed groups, suspending the activities of executive power and subordinating the head of the area administration directly to the Russian president.

The Ingush president expressed hope that a special commission of the Federation Council on the examination of the situation in the conflict zone, which will be formed on the basis of the Committee for the Affairs of the Russian Federation, the federal treaty and regional policy as well as of the Defence and Security Committee, "will appraise the situation on the spot and prepare legislators for the next presidential decree which may appear within two months, that is by the time the term of the present decree expires".

North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov told journalists after the end of the session that he regarded today's discussion of the presidential decree by the Federation Council as unconstructive.

He was deadly opposed to the introduction of a direct presidential rule. However, Galazov agreed that the state of emergency should be prolonged.

He noted that the presidential decree was poorly drafted, and some of its points were "quite illiterate juridically". According to the president, remarks by North Ossetian representatives were not taken into account when the document was drafted.

Adighe Republic President Aslan Dzharimov told ITAR-TASS today that he deems it necessary "to stiffen the execution of adopted decisions", and the start should be made with this presidential decree.

Dzharimov, a member of the North-Caucasian Coordination Council which started negotiations on the conflict back in January 1993, does not preclude the need for introducing a direct presidential rule.

"Decisions hitherto taken by the Russian president and representative power were of small effect, but the conflict should be extinguished at long last," the Adighe president concluded.

Yeltsin Appoints Representative in Voronezh

LD3101181294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1622 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Moscow January 31 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has issued on Monday [31 January] a decree appointing Boris Kuznetsov as his representative in the region of Voronezh.

Yeltsin also released Aleksandr Minzhurenko from the position of his representative in the region of Omsk in association with Minzhurenko's election to the State Duma, according to the presidential press-service.

Irkutsk Oblast Withholds Payments to Moscow

PM0102121894 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Feb 94 First Edition p 1

[Report from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and ITAR-TASS correspondents' roundup under "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" rubric: "Yu. Nozhikov's Pointed Action"]

[Text] Irkutsk Oblast has been forced to withhold payments to the social insurance and employment funds, as well as the federal budget.

Irkutsk Oblast Administration Head Yuriy Nozhikov announced this Sunday evening.

Withholding payments to the center, the administration head explained, will make it possible to concentrate finances so as to remove the strain of paying wages to budget-funded employees and resolve some other questions. "If this measure is not taken, the consequences will be grave," Yuriy Nozhikov emphasized.

Chechen President Urges Executions for Drug Dealers

LD3101143994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1036 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Groznyy, 31 Jan (CHECHENPRESS-TASS)—"Anyone who is peddling drugs in the republic, either for profit or at the instructions of the secret services, must be physically eliminated," Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev said in Groznyy at a regular sitting of the republic's Security Council. Dudayev's statement was released today by the CHECHENPRESS agency. The Chechen president's opinion is that "with the connivance of local authorities and law enforcement bodies, drug addiction has reached such proportions that it threatens the nation's gene pool."

The CHECHENPRESS agency reports that the procurator general "has been instructed to draft a law on applying the death penalty to drug dealers."

According to Dudayev, "As a beginning, it is necessary to hold a few public executions," CHECHENPRESS reports.

Businessmen Urge Measures To 'Overcome Crisis'

PM0102113594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Feb 94 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Siberians Know How To Overcome the Crisis"]

[Text] In an appeal to the president, the prime minister, and the chairmen of the Federation Council and the State Duma approximately 60 Novosibirsk Oblast enterprise directors have proposed taking urgent measures to overcome the crisis.

The corps of directors proposes, in particular, altering the system of taxation of enterprises by limiting the overall amount of direct and indirect taxes to 35-40 percent of the proceeds, and revising the government decree on revaluing fixed capital and property with regard to enterprises not in state ownership.

International Affairs

Ukraine To Join 'Partnership for Peace'

LD3101174794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1644 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Ukraine will shortly join NATO's "Partnership for Peace" program, the Ukrainian foreign minister said.

Anatoliy Zlenko, at a news conference held jointly with Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky in Uzhgorod, Ukraine, on Monday described the program as very promising and said Ukraine would take part both in its preparation and implementation.

Jeszenszky said, "Hungary fully shares the position of Ukraine on the program."

Answering a question about the Yugoslav conflict, Zlenko said it could only be resolved by negotiation. Jeszenszky said Hungary took a similar view.

Deputy Doubts Validity of Tripartite Accord

AU3101134194 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Jan 94 p 5

[Interview with people's deputy S. Holovatyy, a coauthor of the Law on Ukraine's International Agreements, by Kateryna Kindras; place and date not given: "Things are Not That Simple"]

[Text] People are currently arguing in the lobby of the Ukrainian parliament and not only there on whether the tripartite agreement on the destruction of nuclear weapons may be regarded as an international agreement. Our correspondent met with people's deputy S. Holovatyy, one of the coauthors of the Law on Ukraine's International Agreements. Here is his opinion:

[Holovatyy] The presidential team has been trying, through the mass media, to convince everybody that the tripartite statement by the presidents of Ukraine, the United States, and Russia is a document that further develops the Supreme Council decree on the ratification of START-1. Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and Minister of Foreign Affairs Anatoliy Zlenko said that the statement does not need to be ratified because it is not an agreement. By doing this consciously or unconsciously, they mislead the people. The thing is that the Law on Ukraine's International Agreements that was adopted last December reads that any document signed by authorized state figures is an international agreement. I reiterate: Any document, irrespective of its type—accord, agreement, protocol, note, statement, declaration, and so forth. A statement signed by heads of three states is undoubtedly an international agreement. However, its content is not new and applies to those nuclear weapons whose problem has been settled by START I, which has been ratified by the Supreme Council with a supplement of 13 reservations. This statement refers to START I and should, therefore, be regarded as a document relevant to the fulfillment of the Supreme Council decree on the ratification of START I. However, the parliament has every right to raise the question on whether the signing of this statement by the Ukrainian president is in full conformity with the requirements specified by the Supreme Council during the ratification of START I. If it turns out that there is no such conformity, the parliament may conclude that Ukraine is not obliged to fulfill this statement. Our state is only obliged to fulfill START I in that form that was validated by the exchange of ratification documents.

Nuclear Agreement Contradicts State Interests

WS3101135194 Kiev VECHIRNIY KYYIV in Ukrainian 26 Jan 94 p 1

[Report by Volodymyr Chikalin: "We Have Cooked a Nuclear Dish, But Can We Serve It?"]

[Text] **The tripartite agreement on Ukraine's nuclear weapons signed by the Ukrainian, Russian, and U.S. presidents still remains the center of attention of the international community and media. There is the widespread opinion that this document has decisive importance for our state and conforms to the goals of its policy and people's hopes. Are there different opinions on this issue? Scientists from the Academy of Sciences Institute of Semiconductors received an answer to this and many other questions at a meeting with Ukrainian People's Deputies Yuriy Kostenko and Ivan Zayets.**

Yuriy Kostenko, Ukraine's minister of ecology and head of the Committee for Issues of Nuclear Disarmament, outlining his position on the tripartite agreement, emphasized that one should have proceeded on the path to nuclear disarmament gradually. What happened in Moscow did not comply with the interests of our state.

Explaining his viewpoint, People's Deputy Yuriy Kostenko recalled certain facts. In particular, he said that there are no nuclear warheads which have surpassed their predetermined shelf life. The majority of them will expire in the year 2005.

The terms of payments for nuclear weapons cannot satisfy us. The tactical nuclear weapons which were transferred to Russia contained 90 tonnes of highly enriched uranium and 10 tonnes of plutonium. Estimating that 1 kg of uranium costs $100,000 and 1 kg of plutonium— $1 million, Russia's debt for our nuclear components exceeds our debt for energy sources.

In the opinion of Yuriy Kostenko, the widespread belief that we would have ended up in complete isolation if we had not signed the documents on nuclear disarmament are not true. While proceeding on the path to nonnuclear status, we should have concentrated our efforts on accelerating economic reforms.

The same opinion was voiced by Ivan Zayets, head of the Kiev branch of Rukh, who dwelled on ways of reforming the executive branch. He appealed to the participants for voting for politicians who endorse the interests of an independent Ukraine.

Listening to the people's deputies, I recalled something my grandmother would say when somebody failed to complete his work: "She could cook, but she could not serve."

Having cooked a nuclear dish, we probably did not serve it well at the tripartite meeting's table.

Zlenko, Hungary's Jeszenszky Discuss Minorities Issue

LD3101173494 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1600 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Ukraine strives for equal rights and the peaceful coexistence of the nationalities living in the country, the Ukrainian foreign minister [Anatoliy Zlenko] told his Hungarian counterpart [Geza Jeszenszky] in Uzhgorod. Zlenko was of the view that parallel with the settlement of economic problems, the problems of minorities—including Hungarians—will also be settled in Ukraine.

Regarding the talks, Jeszenszky said that they had discussed the extension of the two countries' economic relations and the speeding up of border traffic.

Jeszenszky Criticizes Plan To Bomb Serbs

LD3101160394 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1500 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Excerpts] [Hungarian] Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky, who arrived in Ungvar [Uzhgorod, Ukraine] to hand over the aid intended for the flood victims in Sub-Carpathia, had a discussion with [Ukrainian Foreign Minister] Anatoliy Zlenko. Peter Marvanyi, our special correspondent, reports from their joint news conference in Ungvar:

[Marvanyi] Both countries will soon sign in Brussels the document registering their joining the Partnership for Peace program. This was said at the news briefing held after the negotiations. [passage omitted]

Both politicians returned from the Balkans recently and during their discussion it became clear that they agreed that the conflict there must be solved by political means. Indeed, Zlenko confirmed that Ukraine opposes any kind of external interference. He said that a possible step of this kind by NATO would have negative consequences for the entire Balkans. According to the Ukrainian politician, nothing could justify the bombing of Serbian positions.

Naturally, mention was made—mainly appreciatively—about bilateral relations and the situation of the Hungarian minority in Ukraine. Anatoliy Zlenko said that the harmony between the minorities in Sub-Carpathia creates the conditions for cultural autonomy. In his view, the situation of Hungarians living here may be a yardstick for many countries where a solution to the nationality issue is being sought.

National Affairs

Crimean President Plans No Drastic Changes

LD3101235194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov has held his first news conference. Mykola Polonskyy has the story: [passage omitted] Yuriy Meshkov read out a statement expressing his readiness to cooperate with all political forces and economic structures since the elections. Having almost 1 million Crimeans, 72 percent of the adult population, supporting his candidacy demonstrates, in the president's opinion, the great unity of the peninsula's population that now forms a single people. Crimea, in his words, can become a bridge of friendship between Ukraine and Russia.

It was relations between the young republic and these states that raised many questions from journalists. A question was raised on a referendum on the status of Crimea. Yuriy Meshkov confirmed his resolve strictly to comply with the letter of the law. His principal aim, however, is the economic well-being of the Crimeans, while all the rest is secondary. In other words, the question of the Crimea either seceding from Ukraine and developing as an independent state or not, virtually remained unanswered.

Obviously, reality compels Yuriy Meshkov not to hurry secession, for the economic situation in Crimea is complex, so much so that even a thought of the republic surviving independently is absurd.

As for Russia, the president only spoke about the need to restore and strengthen economic relations with it. The news conference somehow did not discuss the integration of Crimea in the Russian ruble zone, which so far has been regarded as a panacea for every trouble. [passage omitted]

Meshkov told journalists that he would not take steps drastically different from the previous course and that he would not undertake substantial structural changes and replacements in power structures. In other words, everything will remain unchanged. But if so, how can the Crimeans expect any improvement in their well-being and living standards? Unfortunately, journalists did not hear the Crimean president's specific proposals or concrete ideas in this respect.

Meshkov Sees Crimea as 'Bridge' With Russia

LD3101172494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1642 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Simferopol, 31 Jan—The news conference by Yuriy Meshkov, elected on Sunday as first president of the Republic of Crimea, started with the reading of the Central Electoral Committee resolution on the election of the president of the Crimea.

Yuriy Meshkov read out his own appeal to the Crimeans, in which he assured them that he was ready for creative work and cooperation with all political groups and representatives of all ethnic groups. The Crimea could and should become a bridge of friendship between Russia and the Ukraine, he stressed.

Replying to journalists' questions, Yuriy Meshkov announced that with his election the question of Crimean statehood was decided once and for all, but the Crimea will not become a "hot spot" like Karabakh or the Dniester Region. As for the Black Sea Fleet, it should remain united and Russian.

Meshkov's Stance on Military Issues Viewed

PM0102105794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Feb 94 p 3

[Vladimir Pasyakin report: "Where Is the Crimea's First President Taking the Republic?"]

[Excerpt] Sevastopol—[passage omitted] Yuriy Meshkov's convincing election victory demonstrated once again the dominating idea of political and economic autonomy in the Crimea. This idea has undergone a marked evolution in Meshkov himself in recent weeks—from abrasive statements about secession from Ukraine to prudence, a phased approach, and reasonableness in everything concerning the peninsula' future.

In this regard some people are already talking about Yuriy Meshkov's repudiation of basic points in his manifesto—the Crimea's return to the ruble zone, the granting of the right of dual citizenship to the republic's citizens, and the lifting of the moratorium on a referendum on the status of Crimea. Some people regard this as a move away from the fundamental line of rapprochment with Russia and a tentative move toward Ukraine. But these unduly categorical and overstraightforward judgments do not match up to reality. He is not repudiating his manifesto and its basic points. Meshkov is simply acting as a level-headed, prudent politician occupying a centrist position rather than swinging in one or the other directon.

"I am not an advocate of conflict between the Crimea and Ukraine," Meshkov told journalists recently. "I am an advocate of maintaining and developing our prevailing links with Russia and other CIS countries. The process of acquiring autonomy is not something you accomplish in a day. It is a long process of negotiation. Moreover, Crimea's autonomy has to be supported by the people of the peninsula in a referendum."

The stance of the Crimea's first president on military questions is as follows: In addition to Black Sea Fleet units, a considerable number of Ukrainian ground troops are stationed in the Crimea; in this regard the Crimea will as an autonomous republic propose to Russia and Ukraine the demilitarization of the Crimea, with its defense secured as part of the Commonwealth's collective security system.

According to Meshkov, it is essential to maintain in the Crimea on a treaty basis only the Russian Black Sea Fleet base, border subunits, and the air defense system. Citizens of the peninsula should perform their military service exclusively in the Crimea, with service outside the Crimea solely on a contract basis. While in the future compulsory military service is to be abolished. Crimea does not need its own army apart from a small republic guard. As far as Sevastopol is concerned, Meshkov's opinion is that it forms an inalienable part of the Crimea and should remain the Russian Black Sea Fleet's main base.

Kravchuk's Office, Rukh View Crimean Elections

LD3101150394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1420 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Ukrainian Presidential Press Secretary Viktor Stelmakh told UNIAN today that Leonid Kravchuk's stance on the Crimean elections is a matter of principle and remains unchanged. The president respects the voters' right to elect anyone they like, but if the president of Crimea violates the Constitution of Ukraine, the president of Ukraine will annul unconstitutional decisions using the extra powers granted by the parliament.

Vyacheslav Chornovil, chairman of Ukraine's Popular Movement [Rukh], said in his comment: "What happened had to happen; it is another loss for Ukraine's leaders. The unconstitutional presidential elections in Crimea should not have been allowed. We can only hope that Leonid Kravchuk will remain president of Ukraine and use the extra powers granted to him to annul the decisions of the Crimean autonomy.

"I do not see any absolute tragedy here; making speeches is one thing, pushing a plow quite another. I believe that in 18 months' time the Crimean residents will be disillusioned with Yuriy Meshkov's policy. Besides, I believe he has given Leonid Kravchuk an advantage with regard to the statement on Ukraine's nuclear disarmament, since that document guarantees the territorial integrity of its signatories." [passage omitted]

Kravchuk, Plyushch React

LD3101154094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1422 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Chairman of the Crimean Parliament Nikolay Bagrov told a press conference in Simferopol on Monday that Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and parliament speaker Ivan Plyushch took calmly the news about the victory of pro-Russian candidate Yuriy Meshkov during the presidential elections in Crimea. On Monday morning the defeated Bagrov had a telephone conversation with the Ukrainian leaders.

Bagrov announced that he would quit politics and that he had no plans to lead any opposition to the elected president. Neither does he imagine any confrontation with the Crimean parliament. However, he described Meshkov's election program as unfeasible and recommended that the newly-elected president amend it.

The possibility of holding a referendum on Crimea's status, which the new president has scheduled for March 27, must be evaluated by the Crimean parliament, said Bagrov. He also pointed out that Crimea and Russia could no longer be reunited.

Meanwhile, according to Interfax-Ukraine's sources, Meshkov is already forming his cabinet. The law on the president of the Republic of Crimea gives him the status of head of the executive authority. On Tuesday or Wednesday Meshkov is likely to go to Kiev for talks with the Ukrainian leaders.

Vice Chairman of Ukraine's Popular RUKH Aleksandr Lavrinovich described the results of the presidential elections in Crimea as "the defeat of the Ukrainian officials' authority." He told Interfax-Ukraine that a referendum on Crimea's secession from Ukraine might be held, presumably next spring.

He believes that the results of the elections in Crimea might mark the beginning of confrontation between Crimea and Ukraine." [no opening quotation marks as received]

Ukraine's First Deputy Minister for Nationalities and Migration Aleksandr Piskun believes that the results of the elections were due to the Ukrainian authorities' inconsistent policies. "All this poses a threat to Ukraine's sovereignty," he said.

Meshkov Reportedly To Meet With Kravchuk

AU0102084294 Paris AFP in English 0830 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev, Feb 1 (AFP)—Crimea's new President Yuriy Meshkov, who wants the autonomous Ukrainian Republic returned to Russia, will meet Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk in Kiev on Tuesday, reliable sources here said.

The Ukrainian presidency had not officially confirmed the meeting.

Meshkov was elected president of Crimea on Sunday [30 January] with 72.9 percent of the votes in the republic's first direct presidential elections. He announced he would hold a referendum on Crimea's future status on March 27, the same day as Ukrainian parliamentary elections.

Nationalist Leader Says Crimean Elections Illegal

LD3101204494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2015 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents]

[Text] Kiev/Lvov January 31 TASS—Stepan Khmara, leader of Ukrainian nationalists, said Monday that President Leonid Kravchuk must recognise the Crimean presidential elections as illegal, the Ukrainian television reported.

Vyacheslav Chornovil, leader of the opposition movement "Rukh", agreed with him saying "the presidential elections in the Crimea should have been cancelled before they started".

Yuri Shukhevich, head of the ultra-right paramilitary UNA-UNSO organization, went further saying the Crimean developments were "Israeli intrigues".

Several west-Ukrainian politicians questioned by ITAR-TASS on the matter, joined in opinion that the results of the Crimean elections are only the beginning of the federalization of Ukraine.

Moreover, they predicted that following the Crimean example, the next province to claim the sovereignity will be Galicia or the Transcarpathian part of the Ukraine. Last year the attempts to proclaim there an independent state were strangled by the parliament.

Opposition Blames Kiev for Crimean Election Result

LD3101192694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1827 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Efim Shvartsman]

[Text] Kiev January 31 TASS—Vyacheslav Chornovil, leader of the Ukrainian nationalist opposition movement "Rukh [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka]", said that "the presidential elections in the Crimea should have been cancelled before they started".

In his statement, circulated on Monday, Chornovil expressed hope that Leonid Kravchuk would use his presidential right to abort any steps of the new pro-Russian Crimean president if they contradict the Ukrainian Constitution.

The leader of the "Rukh" blamed the leadership of the parliament for the outcome of the elections which he called "a recurrent loss of the Ukrainian authorities".

Chornovil accused the Parliament Speaker Ivan Plyushch personally of "stubbornly refusing to put onto the parliament's agenda the question of bringing the Crimean laws into line with those of Ukraine".

Crimean Leaders at Odds Over Majles Existence

LD3101222694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2022 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Simferopol—Newly elected Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov held a news conference on 31 January at which he said that there are no reasons why the situation in the Crimea should deteriorate. He also spoke in favor of a single Black Sea Fleet. The newly elected president told the news conference that he intends to appeal to the Republic of the Crimea procurator in connection with certain state structures negating the Law on the President of the Republic of the Crimea. In Yuriy Meshkov's words, the president does not even have a residence yet. He also emphasized that if the Majles of the Crimean Tartar People is a public organization it must register with the Crimean Justice Ministry. However, "if the Majles claims the role of an authority, I have to say that there must not be two such authorities on the peninsula and the Majles must cease to exist," Yuriy Meshkov stated.

In an exclusive interview with a UNIAN correspondent on the same day, Refat Chubarov, deputy chairman of the Majles of the Crimean Tartar people, said: "In my opinion, the results of the elections in the Crimea and the election of Yuriy Meshkov as president demonstrate that under the conditions of economic collapse, political instability, and uncertainty, society is prone to believe in the most adventurist aims and programs. Another argument in favor of this suggestion is Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's victory in the elections to Russia's State Duma."

In Refat Chubarov's words, there are grounds to believe that Yuriy Meshkov in the post of the president will obstruct the process of the Crimean Tartar people returning to their historical homeland and restoring their political rights. "I am convinced that Meshkov's next move will be to attempt to exclude from the Law on the Elections to the Supreme Council of the Crimea the amendment guaranteeing 14 parliamentary seats for the Crimean Tartar people."

Forecasting the future situation on the peninsula, Chubarov said that the Majles will never recognize the presidential powers of an individual who would act to prevent the restoration of the rights of the Crimean Tartar people. "If Meshkov begins actions of a discriminatory nature against us, we in our turn will react adequately. We, however, will not make the first move, which would allow him to destabilize the situation on the peninsula and achieve his aims," Chubarov stated.

Bagrov on Crimean Election Results, Personal Plans

WS3101181294 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] As reported, the leader of the Republican Party of the Crimea, Yuriy Meshkov, has become the first president of the Crimean Republic. Presidential ex-candidate Mykola Bagrov, satisfying journalists' request, held a news conference today. He explained his defeat at yesterday's balloting saying that the people voted not against him but against their difficult situation [as heard]. Mykola Bagrov did not agree with the opinion that he was preparing the presidential office for himself. [passage indistinct] I have not interfered with the results of the balloting, and this was confirmed by Yuriy Meshkov's impressive victory. Mykola Bagrov was sorry that Crimean residents did not support his program, on which he had worked so hard. Asked about how realistic Yuriy Meshkov's program is, Mykola Bagrov said that the first Crimean president will face many difficulties. If Yuriy Meshkov appeals to him for help, he—guided by Crimean interests—will not refuse to give it. With regard to his personal plans for the future, Mykola Bagrov did not specify them, but said that he was going to leave politics. At any rate, he will not participate in the elections to the Crimean or Ukrainian Supreme Council. A hard life is in store for me, he said at the end, but I am not going to part with the Crimea.

Crimean Parliament Chairman Resigns

LD0102120194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1114 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Chairman of the Crimean parliament Nikolay Bagrov announced his resignation on Monday [31 January] evening during a session of the Crimean parliament's presidium.

On February 4, the Crimean parliament will gather for a session during which Crimea's first president will be sworn in.

During the second round of presidential elections on January 30, Bagrov won only 23 percent of the votes. The presidential post will be occupied by leader of the Crimean Republican Party Yuriy Meshkov, who received support from 73 percent of the voters.

Group Calls For Kravchuk's Impeachment Over Crimea

LD0102095094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2137 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Odessa, 31 Jan—The all-Ukrainian political association, State Independence of Ukraine [DSU], published a statement on the Crimean presidential elections. The statement, signed by DSU chairman Roman Koval, says, in particular:

"The results of the Crimean presidential elections were to be expected: The elected president, Yuriy Meshkov, is a resolute and uncompromising advocate of Crimea's reunification with Russia. His victory became possible not only through the support of Yeltsin and Zhirinovskiy, the Russian fifth column in Crimea, but also because of the weak and indecisive policy of official Kiev. The policy of balancing acts, compromises, and wiles, stems not from the president's stately wisdom, but from his personal human weakness and lack of patriotism. Kravchuk neglected his main duty: The creation of a Ukrainian force that could be relied on to solve important problems.

Responsibility for the developments in Crimea also rests with Ukrainian democrats, primarily with the pro-president parties and congresses whose support enabled Kravchuk to pursue his defeatist policy. The Ukrainian leadership is powerless and inefficient. It is incapable of fighting for Ukrainian interests, being accustomed to submitting to foreign will and carrying out decisions taken in Moscow.

We call on all political forces to demand Kravchuk's resignation. The Supreme Council must impeach the president even before the March elections.

Gives Political Broadcast

LD3101202394

[Editorial Report] Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian at 1700 GMT on 31 January, in the penultimate program of a series of party political broadcasts on Ukrainian TV, broadcasts a 10-minute party political broadcast by The State Independence of Ukraine [DSU], an all-Ukrainian political association, introduced by Hryhoriy Hrebenyuk, a member of this association's leadership.

The speaker begins the broadcast by defining the State Independence of Ukraine as an association of ethnic Ukrainians fighting "to build a Ukrainian Ukraine." He then sets out the association's election platform, which is as follows: The association works to "stop immediately the uncontrollable export to Russia, Israel, Poland, and other countries of food and consumer goods," and "to close the Ukrainian borders and thus stop the filthy wave of Russian and Western pseudo-culture, pornography," drug addiction and immigration from Russia, the Caucasus, and Third World countries.

The association is against "the democratic and communist clique of Kravchuk-Zvyahilskyy," which sold Ukraine down the river, and expresses non-confidence in "the so-called democratic opposition zealously following orders from the West" and "the communists whose hearts are with Moscow, the capital of the Russian empire of evil." It is in favor of a crushing blow to the Mafia, state monopoly in foreign trade and currency operations, state regulation of prices, "expropriation of the new bourgeois of non-Ukrainian decent that enriched itself by violating the law and exploiting the Ukrainians." It is in favor of the retention of industry in state ownership and a new citizenship law that will only make loyal Ukrainian citizens eligible to vote and prevent "privatization of Ukraine by aliens."

The speaker then proclaims that in order for Ukraine "to survive as a nation, preference in our state must be given to anything Ukrainian. Ukrainians must be given precedence in employment, social security, provision of cheap housing, and privatization."

He maintains that the peasantry should be given land that can be bequeathed to their children but not sold, stating that "politicians must encourage the Ukrainian peasant to the full."

He goes on to say that the association will "stop the conversion of the military industrial complex and unilateral disarmament," put an end to "democratic chaos and communist rule," and promote strong nationalistically minded authorities and "a powerful Ukrainian Army armed with nuclear weapons."

All this goes to show, he continues, that there is every precondition in Ukraine for a military dictatorship to be established, to rid Ukraine of such phenomena as chaos, the Crimean crisis, separatism, and crime. He adds that "Ukrainian servicemen must come to power," which will be followed by decreeing censorship, banning democratization, "resolutely restoring order in Ukraine," introducing an economic state of emergency, disbanding anti- Ukrainian organizations, and "deporting the disloyal."

He continues: "A national dictatorship alone will lead Ukraine out of chaos and see it through until it becomes a state. The DSU calls on the Supreme Council to draw up a Ukraine law on the impeachment of the president, and immediately remove Leonid Kravchuk from power as a traitor to the national interests of the Ukrainian people who broke his promise," given to Ukraine when he took up this post "so important to Ukraine."

He concludes his speech by appealing to the Ukrainian people to rise, and proclaiming: "Ukraine will win! There will be the Ukrainian state."

Kravchuk: Armed Forces Capable of Defending Ukraine

LD3101164194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0701 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk believes that "the Ukrainian Armed Forces will act in the appropriate order and are capable of defending the state in an extreme situation." This was the way he commented on the results of the military command exercise on territorial defense, the Defense Ministry's press service told INTERFAX-Ukraine.

The first strategic exercise on territorial defense in Ukraine which took place under the main staff led by the commander in chief, President Leonid Kravchuk, finished on Friday. The purpose of the exercise was to develop interaction between the power ministries, the frontier defense forces, the national guards' army and the civil defense forces.

The press service also announced that actions not only in case of an external threat but also in case of a natural calamity had been carried out during the exercise.

Interviewed on Staff Exercise

WS3101193994 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1530 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Interview with President Leonid Kravchuk by unidentified reporter from "Without Protocol" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Kravchuk] Our concept stipulates that Ukraine should have combat-ready Armed Forces capable of defending its sovereignty and independence at any point. That is why we are conducting a strategic command staff exercise. These are not military maneuvers and no technical equipment is being used, although we have already been accused of the opposite. There have been attempts to say that because Ukraine has no possibility to conduct such undertakings [military maneuvers]; it is holding a staff exercise. I want to point out to these gentlemen that if necessity arises, Ukraine will find strategic reserves and a possibility to use the equipment available in the Armed Forces. However, we have set no such task—the task was absolutely different; but when people do not know what they want, or they see their strategic goals in spreading lies about Ukraine, we treat this with understanding. [words indistinct]

[Reporter] As the commander in chief, can you say whether Ukraine is capable of defending itself?

[Kravchuk] Resolving the problem of reforming the Armed Forces is not the same as resolving the problem of defense capability. I mean that we have arrived at the conclusions about the current state of our Armed Forces and all other structures and how ready we are in case of necessity. We will do everything to prevent such necessities, but troops exist and their normal task is to train. I believe that we can tell our people that the Ukrainian Armed Forces along with other ministries and departments involved in this [sphere], are capable of cooperating and performing their functions regarding the protection of Ukraine's interests, its national border, the people, and their peaceful labor.

There are problems in supplies of say, lubricants and appropriate resources; there are personnel, discipline, and responsibility problems—all this was demonstrated very vividly during the exercise and we saw that this [exercise] should have been conducted earlier. We were preoccupied with things like transforming a corps into a division or a division into a corps... or reducing military districts and expanding them. [words indistinct] Today, we have set a strategic goal—that of Ukraine's defense, the readiness of both the Armed Forces and others for this sacred task of state defense. This is a qualitatively new task. This has been the first exercise and thus, I cannot give a precise and full answer about it. I believe that when we meet again at future exercises, we will be able to speak about their significance. However, even today we should say that it was needed and has brought considerable benefits.

Belarus

Hryb To Prioritize Relations With Russia

LD3101173594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By correspondent Aleksey Zhuk; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Zhuk] Myechyslaw Hryb, the new Supreme Soviet speaker, conducted his first working meeting at the Belarus Supreme Soviet today. It was pointed out that to all appearances the political confrontation in the Supreme Soviet and in the republic has somewhat lessened, but the economic crisis is on the increase.

[Hryb] Not even one of the former USSR republics has determined its state structure. We as such do not have one. The old structure was destroyed but it has not been replaced by a new one.

I will use all my efforts to establish a firm presidential rule and, without doubts, cooperation with Russia. This does not stand in the way of developing political and economic relations with Western countries. One is welcome to work in this direction but priority should be given to relations with the Russian Federation since our roots and our economic ties are there.

Hryb Addresses Supreme Soviet Session

WS0102094994 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0800 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Approximately half an hour ago, the 13th Supreme Soviet session of the Republic of Belarus resumed its work. Supreme Soviet Chairman Myechyslaw Hryb opened the session with an introductory speech. He thanked the audience for electing him Supreme Soviet chairman and called for the consolidation of all forces in society to work jointly to pull the republic out of its crisis and move forward toward the development of society.

The Supreme Soviet chairman appealed to the opposition and Belarusian mass media not to go in for idle criticism, but rather to work constructively for the benefit of society. I hope for the wisdom of the people, for the support of all forces, said Myechyslaw Hryb. He spoke about today's telephone conversation with Boris Yeltsin and said that the Russian leader expressed support and understanding. Later, Belarusian deputies began discussing miscellaneous issues. Our newscasts will report in detail on the course of the Supreme Soviet session.

Yeltsin Congratulates New Leader

LD3101190694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1745 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By BELINFORM correspondent Valentina Menshikova for TASS]

[Text] Minsk January 31 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin congratulated on Monday [31 January] Myechyslaw Hryb with his election to the top state position of the parliament chairman.

"The peoples of Russia and Belarus always lived in peace, friendship and accord", the message said. "They are united by multi-century joint history, close culture, traditions of cooperation in all walks of life. I express conviction that Russia and Belarus will act jointly in solving complicated problems on the basis of equality, mutual understanding and benefit", the Russian president said.

Hryb Election 'Victory' for Left Wing

PM0102110594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Feb 94 p 3

[Article by Valeriy Kovalev and Sergey Prokopenko: "The Speaker Has Gone! Long Live the Speaker! Myechyslaw Hryb Has Been Elected Chairman of the Republic of Belarus Supreme Soviet"]

[Text] Commenting on his departure, Stanislav Shushkevich, former speaker of the Belarusian parliament, said: "I am not acceptable to the majority in this parliament. They do not want to form a new society, the majority of the present deputies want to go back to the old ways. I still do not understand how I managed to become head of the Supreme Soviet at all. The communist majority suffered a tremendous shock in the fall of 1991 and my election was a great stroke of luck, not an objective inevitability."

At the same time some local observers see several reasons for what happened. Specifically that there was no centrist group in the Belarusian parliament, that it was split between an overwhelming majority and a small opposition, and that the parliament which is unprofessional in status has become an adjunct of the executive.

Be that as it may, last Friday [28 January] the Belarusian parliament got a new leader—Mechyslaw Hryb. Contrary to the predictions of many observers, who thought that parliament would take a long time over the election of a new speaker, this election took just two days. Consultations were held in the groups and factions on 27 January, and on the morning of 28 January the Supreme Soviet Presidium put Mechyslaw Hryb to the deputies as a candidate. Of course, the parliamentarians did not agree to uncontested elections. The list of nominations for the secret ballot included the candidacies of People's Deputies Viktor Hanchar and Mikhail Marinich. Even though none of the contenders managed to obtain the 174 votes necessary for election in the first round, hardly anyone was in any doubt that Hryb would win. Incidentally, the left-wing parliamentary majority gambled on him. They were not wrong. In round two Hryb received 183 votes against 55.

The new speaker is 56 years old. He hails from the village of Savichi, which is in Grodno Oblast's Dyatlovskiy

Rayon. His father died in the war. In 1959 he graduated from the Interior Ministry's Fire-Fighting Technical School in Lvov. He served in the organs of the Interior Ministry where he rose to the rank of lieutenant general and chief of the Vitebsk Oblast Soviet Executive Committee's Internal Affairs Administration. In 1990 Mechyslaw Hryb was elected a Belarusian people's deputy. He headed the parliamentary commission on questions of national security, defense, and the fight against crime. He is a supporter of a strong authority and advocates the introduction of the presidency. He supported the ratification of the CIS Collective Security Treaty, which led to serious frictions with Stanislav Shushkevich.

At his first news conference following the election, Myechyslaw Hryb told journalists that he sees his main task as the consolidation of all the forces in parliament. "I have no other program to extricate the republic from the crisis than that which was adopted by our Supreme Soviet and government," he said. "I do not believe that there should be any adjustments to our foreign policy course. Belarus will remain a sovereign, independent state, will strive for non-nuclear status and neutrality, and will conscientiously fulfill all previously signed treaties and agreements."

Myechyslaw Hryb's election as chairman of the Belarus Supreme Soviet has been unambiguously assessed by many observers as a victory for the left-wing forces in Belarus. In their opinion this may have quite a powerful impact on the republic's foreign policy and in particular could introduce ideological aspects to it. After all, voices have already been raised in parliament on several occasions calling for "opposition to the West" and its influence. As for relations with the eastern neighbor, they will most probably become even closer.

Shushkevich's Removal Blamed on Treaty Position

WS3101154194 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian 28 Jan 94 p 1

[Untitled article by Nikolay Shcherbachenya]

[Text] The standoff between the majority of the Belarusian legislature and its speaker resulted in the removal of the latter. Technically, Stanislav Shushkevich remained the head of the republic's highest legislative body until the outcome of the 26 January vote was made public. But in fact, he has long lost support of the legislative majority and the opposition as well. In spite of the high speed with which everything happened, the recent events did not come as a surprise at all.

The speaker was accused of failing to take anticorruption measures, exercising inadequate control over law enforcement agencies, and personal misconduct. However, genuine reasons that led up to the removal of Stanislav Shushkevich from his post lie much deeper. The deputies could have presented an even longer list of his faults on Wednesday [26 January]. In the first place, most were extremely displeased with the legislative speaker's downright negative attitude toward the CIS collective security treaty, with numerous uncertainties about the merger of the Russian and Belarusian monetary systems, and with him vacillating on issues of the Republic's state system. On the other hand, Shushkevich became inconvenient to the legislative opposition, too, which has lately adopted a radically nationalistic stance and a distinct orientation toward the West.

The clash came to a head during the examination of a new draft constitution. As a matter of fact, the Supreme Soviet found itself in a political deadlock then. At that time, many realized that a quick and decisive outcome was imminent. I think that there is another reason for the removal of the leader of the country's highest legislative body, who was not supported by the majority. The deputies had to find and show society the main culprit of the delayed constitutional process that could somehow justify their poor work. Otherwise, the situation would have called for early elections—a prospect that most of the legislators do not particularly welcome.

Not only does Shushkevich's removal not settle any troubles of the Supreme Soviet, it may produce a whole range of new, and even nastier, ones for the parliament. Although the "buffer" policy of the former parliament's leader did not hasten the work on the draft constitution, it sometimes allowed opposing factions and groupings of the Belarusian legislature to reach compromises. Will such compromises be possible when the Supreme Soviet splits into two unreconcilable camps, especially on key issues requiring the constitutional majority?

Deputies Criticize Shushkevich Leadership

WS3101170494 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 28 Jan 94 p 1

[Report by Uladzimir Hlod and Larisa Lazar: "What Were News Conferences About? Stanislav Shushkevich Has Never Stood Up for His Position Until the End. This Is His Political Drama."]

[Text] People's Deputy Viktar Hanchar commented on Stanislav Shushkevich's dismissal from the position of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman as follows: "The political drama of Shushkevich-politician will be realized later." He, along with People's Deputies Alyaksandr Lukashenka and Dzmitri Bulakhaw, held a news conference after the results of the secret ballot became known to the audience. Formally, Stanislav Shushkevich was accused of "not taking measures to fight corruption, lack of control over law enforcement organs, and personal immodesty," however, in fact, this was only a formal pretext for his recall, the organizers of the news conference stated.

"We admit that deputies have long wished to discharge Shushkevich and have looked for some formal pretexts to do so. Therefore, the legislature raised the issue of recalling Shushkevich from his post four times already," said Viktar Hanchar.

According to the people's deputies, Shushkevich's primary mistake was that he did not follow a steady political course. Despite his claim that he subordinates to the will of the legislative majority (represented by left wing deputies), the former Supreme Soviet chairman did not advocate their ideas. In his last speech, Stanislav Shushkevich also renounced his political union with the opposition faction, though this group of deputies supported him. As a result, Shushkevich-politician remained alone.

In the opinion of the people's deputies, the tragedy of Shushkevich lies in the fact that he has never stood up for the most important issues—holding a referendum and early Supreme Soviet elections, signing a collective security agreement, etc.—until the end.

How will Shushkevich's dismissal affect the activity of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet? In the opinion of the organizers of this news conference, the stage of political conflicts in the Supreme Soviet is over, and the time for organized work has arrived.

Well, will Shushkevich's resignation change the political course of the Belarusian legislature?

The people's deputies were unanimous: No, this will not happen; simply the left wing deputies will elect their new leader, and we could make some prognosis based on the behavior of the people's deputies.....

U.S. Stance on Disarmament, Policy Noted

WS0102103394 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1815 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The U.S. Administration has welcomed statements by Belarusian Government officials who confirmed their commitment to follow the path toward a market economy, as well as to fulfill their obligations to transform the Republic of Belarus into a non-nuclear state. We are interested in Belarus continuing on this course. We will cooperate with Vyacheslav Kebich's government and try to encourage this government to take up reforms. It is a long-term policy of the United States, said White House Spokesperson Dee Dee Myers during a briefing with journalists. The agreement on the liquidation of nuclear weapons provides for the allotment of $12 billion to former Soviet republics which will dismantle their nuclear weapons. It is a great financial stimulus for such countries as Belarus and Ukraine, she stated.

According to the Belarusian Embassy in Washington, an official of the U.S. State Department held a briefing, during which he paid much attention to the political situation in Belarus. He stated that the United States is somewhat troubled by the Belarusian Supreme Soviet resolution of 26 January. At the same time, (Macary) referred to Foreign Minister Kravchanka's statement to the diplomatic corps in Minsk on 27 January, with regard to the continuity and consistency of Belarusian foreign policy, first of all, in the sphere of nuclear disarmament. We consider this statement to be of great importance, emphasized the U.S. official.

NATO Official Discusses Military Cooperation

WS3101163794 Minsk VECHERNIY MINSK in Russian 28 Jan 94 p 1

[Report by Aleksey Bezveselnyy: "Belarus and NATO: Options for Cooperation"]

[Text] As part of his trip to Belarus, Field Marshall Richard Frederick Vincent, chairman of the NATO Military Committee, met with Colonel-General Kozlovskiy, Belarusian defense minister. The negotiations were devoted to the issues of continuously developing contacts between the Belarusian Armed Forces and the North Atlantic bloc and the exchange of experience in reforming the Army and arms reduction.

During talks between both military officials, substantial attention was attached to determining their positions regarding the possibility of Belarus joining the "Partnership for Peace" initiative. Incidentally, this issue was also brought up during the recent visit of U.S. President Clinton in Minsk and in negotiations with the leadership of our Republic. Mr. Vincent shared his views on the development of cooperation among European countries to achieve guarantees of their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Regarding this, there was particular interest in understanding the positions on the intention of our Republic to become a neutral state and to completely remove nuclear weapons from the Belarusian territory, as well as possible forms of bilateral cooperation in the military sphere [sentence as published]. It is believed that this may have an impact on a future visit of a group of NATO military inspectors to examine Belarusian participation in the "Partnership for Peace."

Toward the end of the meeting, Field Marshall Richard Vincent noted that the North Atlantic Bloc knows very well and respects the Republic's foreign policies directed at entirely giving up its nuclear arsenals. As a result, this evokes the bloc's sincere desire to help Belarus, especially in the sphere of conventional weapons.

Military Pilots Leave Belarus for Russia

LD3101221194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1930 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] According to the Belarusian Government newspaper RESPUBLIKA, so far almost 800 military pilots have left the Belarusian Air Force to do their further service in Russia. The strength of the republic's airborne troops has been significantly weakened by a mass exodus to Russia; over 300 officers changed their place of service. The paper also reports that about 2,500 officers are trying to leave for Russia in the near future. Over half the Belarusians who are graduating from Russian military schools this year have already signed contracts to do their service in the Russian Armed Forces. The newspaper believes that a higher level of social guarantees for servicemen of the Russian Army is the main reason for this.

Russian Deputy Premier To Visit Minsk

LD3101191694 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By L. Sviridov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Sviridov] Official Minsk is awaiting the visit of Oleg Soskovets, the first deputy prime minister of the Russian Government. It is thought that in the course of the talks a package of documents will be finally agreed on the unification of the two states monetary systems. There is especial controversy on the question of mutual settlements. But Vladimir Ratkevich, the chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, considers that:

[Ratkevich] It is pointless for the Russians to worry that Belarus will dump a great deal of funds onto Russia's monetary system; that there will be inflation. I am sure that when Russia takes down its customs barriers, takes down its customs, and when prices are equalized it will be more efficient for enterprises to get what they need both in Belarus and Russia.

[Sviridov] Meanwhile, in the republic discussions are being held on the possible exchange rate. For citizens of course a rate of one to one has been fixed. Industrialists insist on their own: One to three or one to four. No doubt not without justification, because trade with Russia comprises almost 70 percent of its overall volume with countries of the former USSR.

Armenia

Azerbaijan Troops Suffer 10,000 Casualties

NC3101203094 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1430 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Combat operations on NKR's front lines have continued for nearly two weeks. Azerbaijan's leaders and military command headquarters are trying to resolve the Karabakh problem through the use of force. Thousands of mercenaries are fighting on Azerbaijan's side. Although the Azerbaijan National Army [ANA] units have succeeded in placing several areas under their control as a result of the violent clashes between the two sides, they have been unable to significantly change the situation. In fact, they have suffered many casualties and lost a significant amount of military equipment. More than 10,000 Azerbaijani troops and mercenaries from various countries were killed at the NKR front line during the past two weeks. Many times more were wounded.

The ANA units lost a large quantity of military equipment. For example, 19 of their armored vehicles were either captured or destroyed until 25 January. Meanwhile, 16 tanks were destroyed. The ANA units lost two T-72 tanks and 70 men in the clashes that took place in the vicinity of Martuni on 27 January. The enemy units were forced to retreat. Obviously, the loss the ANA units have suffered is significant.

The NKR Defense Headquarters has disclosed that combat operations are taking place on all battlefronts at the present time. Violent fighting took place in the northern part of Kelbadzharskiy Rayon on 30 January. The NKR units not only beat off the attacks but also counterattacked and forced the enemy to retreat. Combat operations are also taking place in Mardakertskiy Rayon. The Armenian fighters have repulsed the occupationist attacks and forced their units to retreat. Meanwhile, the situation in Agdamskiy and Fizulinskiy Rayons is tense.

Several observers believe that the ANA units have failed to achieve their objective despite making some advances. As we mentioned earlier, the ANA units' success has cost them significant casualties and loss of equipment. Azerbaijan will be forced to mobilize 45-year-old or 50-year-old men if the present state of affairs continues. [passage omitted]

Regrettably, a peaceful situation has not been effectively established on Armenia's border with Azerbaijan. The neighboring republic's military units have frequently fired on Armenian residential areas close to the border with various types of arms. The Armenian Ministry of Defense's Press Service has disclosed that the occupationist ANA units violated Armenia's border once again early this morning. Several enemy patrols attacked Movses in Tavushskiy Rayon at 0310. The Armenian border guards took retaliatory measures. The fighting continued until 0630 this morning. A significant blow was inflicted on the enemy units, which were evicted from the area. The Azerbaijani units lost several men. No one was hurt on our side.

No other incident occurred along Armenia's border until this afternoon. However, serious tension continues to exist in the region.

Incursion Repulsed

NC3101195094 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1154 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Yerevan, 31 Jan (ARMENPRES)—An Azerbaijani reconnaissance battalion violated Armenia's borders in Tavushskiy Rayon and launched an attack against the defensive positions near Movses in the early hours of 31 January.

The enemy suffered human losses at the fighting, which continuing for a few hours, and was thrown back. There were no casualties on the Armenian side.

Karabakh Regains Lost Positions

NC3101194994 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1637 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Yerevan, 31 Jan (ARMENPRES)—Bloody battles continued yesterday in a number of war fronts in Karabakh. The Karabakh Defense Army completely stopped the enemy's offensives towards Mardakert, Martuni, and Gadrut.

On the same day, the Armenian fighters succeeded in taking under their control the previously lost positions near Omar pass in the north of Kelbadzharskiy Rayon.

Six fighters were killed and 18 were injured on the Karabakh side during battles yesterday. The enemy lost nearly 150 soldiers and six armored cars, including four tanks.

The military operations resumed in the north of Kelbadzharskiy Rayon this morning.

The Azerbaijani Air Force planes bombed the settlements in Martuninskiy Rayon at noon today. According to preliminary reports, there are casualties.

Further Details

LD3101193994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1913 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ARMENPRESS correspondent Garry Galustyan for TASS]

[Text] Yerevan January 31 TASS—After heavy fighting the Karabakh troops have again seized the strategic mountain pass in the northern part of the Kelbajar region, recaptured earlier by the Azeri Army, a source in the Karabakh military headquarters told ARMENPRES on Monday.

According to the source, for the past 24 hours no less than 150 Azeris were killed while the Karabakh troops have lost only six men in the offensive.

Russian Initiative To End Fighting in Karabakh Viewed

LD3101141694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1303 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Moscow January 31 TASS—Russia has put forward a new initiative suggesting to completely cease fire in Nagorno-Karabakh, beginning from February 1, 1994, for a minimum period of two-three weeks.

The Russian proposal to this effect was conveyed several days ago by a special representative of the Russian president, Vladimir Kazimirov, to the Azeri President Geydar Aliyev, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Nagorno-Karabakh leader, Robert Kocharyan.

Depending on the reaction to this proposal by the sides concerned further steps are envisaged to cease combat operations in Nagorno-Karabakh. It is not ruled out that a meeting between the warring sides will take place in Moscow during this week.

Heavy fighting with alternative success have been going on around Nagorno-Karabakh since the second half of December, 1993. As a result of the bloodshed, several thousands people were reported dead and thousands others were injured, predominantly on the side launching an offensive.

New escalation of military operations is even more pointless because leaders of all warring sides admit that the conflict cannot be resolved by military means and come out in favour of its political settlement, a source from the Russian Foreign Ministry said. The repetition of the bloodshed seriously hampers peace-keeping efforts made both by Russia and international organisations, the same source said.

Russia, as a mediator, seeks to bridge the gap between the warring sides and convince them that they should immediately sign an agreement on the cessation of armed confrontation and prevent further destabilisation of the situation in the region.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev met with the head of Azeri foreign policy department, Gasan Gasanov, his Armenian counterpart, Vagan Papazyan, and a representative of the Nagorno- Karabakh leadership, Arkady Gukasyan, in Moscow in the second half of December, 1993.

Ter-Petrosyan Accepts Russian Plan

NC3101162894 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1254 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Yerevan, 31 Jan (ARMENPRES)—The Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan received Vladimir Kazimirov, the Russian president's ambassador on special missions, upon the latter's return from Stepanakert. They discussed Russia's revised initiative for the resolution of the Karabakh conflict, and the proposals it has submitted to the sides for a temporary and universal cease-fire and halt in military operations as of 1 February, pending the implementation of the measures envisaged in the initiative.

Kazimirov held talks with Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan and the Armenian president's ambassador for special missions, Davit Shahnazaryan.

The Armenian side has officially given a positive reply to the Russian proposal.

Earlier, Kazimirov met in Stepanakert with the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic leadership, who reiterated their desire for a political resolution of the problem and their readiness to enter into talks.

Baburyan Urges Negotiated Settlement of Conflict

NC0102122894 Yerevan SNARK in English 0926 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Stepanakert, February 1 (SNARK)—Karen Baburyan, acting as a chairman of the Karabakh Parliament, told Yerevan TV "The war should be finished and the problem could be solved only by negotiations". According to Baburyan, Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia for many times showed their readiness to start the negotiations without any preliminary conditions, including the negotiations under the aegis of the intermediary missions.

Unfortunately, the official Baku took the opposite position. Saying "no" to the latest schedule of the necessary measures suggested by the Minsk group of the CSCE and the Russian peace- making initiatives, Azerbaijan follows the only way to solve the conflict—by clashes. Baku also ignores all the attempts of the international community to achieve peace in the region—Azerbaijan didn't send his delegation to the session of the European Council Parliamentary Assembly, Baburyan mentioned.

Internationalization of Karabakh Causes Concern

LD3101211494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1854 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] At the request of the Nagorno-Karabakh authorities, the Armenian Foreign Ministry is now handling the issues related to the internationalization of the Karabakh conflict and is preparing corresponding messages to the UN Security Council chairman and the head of the CSCE Minsk group. This was stated in a document of the

Armenian Foreign Ministry's department for public relations and press released in Yerevan on Monday.

The document says the reasons are the instances of Afghan mojahedeen involvement in the conflict on the side of Azerbaijan, the presence of a large quantity of Chinese-made arms in the Azerbaijani Army and British press reports, in particular, The Independent newspaper, about the possibility of British military aid to Azerbaijan.

At the same time, according to the Armenian Foreign Ministry, the above mentioned facts have not yet been officially confirmed. During diplomatic consultations the British, Afghan and Chinese sides denied information about any involvement in the Karabakh conflict.

Presidential Press Secretary Relieved of Post

NC3101160494 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1453 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Yerevan, 31 Jan (ARMENPRES)—Aram Abrahamyan, press secretary of the Armenian president, has been relieved of his post at his request.

Karabakh Unions Launch Defense Fund Initiative

NC0102124094 Yerevan SNARK in English 0926 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Stepanakert, February 1 (SNARK)—Sergey Davidyan, chairman of the Karabakh Federation of Professional Unions, told SNARK the Karabakh professional unions introduce their initiative to transfer a part of the expenditures the professional unions possess to the Fund of Defence. The professional unions of some Karabakh enterprises and organizations are ready to send 20-25 per cent of the employees' salaries to the Fund of Defence.

According to Davidyan, the Karabakh people are ready to send food from their stores to the front.

During the period of last 2-3 days about 10 million rubles were transferred to the Fund of Defence.

Russian Community Unites To Defend Own Culture

PM0102091994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Jan 94 First Edition p 6

[Report by Karen Topchyan: "Russians in Armenia: Should They Leave or Stay?"]

[Text] Yerevan—The total number of Russian in Armenia is about 20,000-25,000, less than 1 percent of the country's 3.5 million population. This is a drop in the ocean compared to the millions-strong Russian communities in other independent states of the former USSR.

Just a few years ago there were twice as many Russians in Armenia. They were concentrated in Yerevan and Vanadzor (formerly Kirovakan), as well as in Sevanskiy, Stepanavanskiy, Gugarkskiy, and Krasnoselskiy Rayons. However, the dramatic events in the once-flourishing Soviet republic have led to a significant exodus of a section of its inhabitants. Among them there have been many Russians.

According to Viktor Derega, counselor at the Russian Federation Embassy in Armenia on questions of migration, there are several reasons for this: the very acute economic situation, which has left not just individual enterprises but entire industrial sectors standing idle; the transport and power blockade, which has led to inhuman living conditions; and the fact that some border regions where Russians live, including Krasnoselskiy Rayon, are in the zone affected by Azerbaijani artillery bombardments....

The Armenian parliament's adoption last summer of a language law which to all intents and purposes deprived a section of the Russian-speaking population of the opportunity to obtain an education in their native language had a negative effect. Even those in employment began to have some problems. Under this law all documentation in the republic's establishments and departments has to be in Armenian.

It is the opinion of "Russia" Society Chairman Galina Chernousova that this document will without doubt have to have further work done on it.

"We have already met with Armenak Kazaryan, minister of state of the Republic of Armenia," she says, "and he promised to assist in increasing the number of Russian schools in areas where our community is concentrated, particularly in Yerevan."

The question of setting up a Russian-Armenian university in the capital is also now being decided at the highest level. At the Russian community's request not only the Armenian but also the Russian leadership will play an active part in this undertaking. Incidentally, not only Russians but also Armenians will study in this higher educational establishment. After all, a great many representatives of the indigenous nation have not only been educated in the language of Pushkin, Tolstoy, and Chekhov but have become cultured thanks to the classics of Russian literature and art.

...The following fact is very interesting: Three ethnic Russian organizations have been formed and are operating in the Republic of Armenia: the Society of Friends of Armenia, the "Harmony" International Center for Russian Culture, and the "Russia" Society. Galina Chernousova considers that the existence of several societies does not divide but on the contrary actually to some degree unites the ethnic Russian population, since each one on its own would hardly be able to draw in everybody living on Armenian territory. "Although non-indigenous nationalities live here no worse and no better than the Armenians," Galina Vasilyevna continues, "our main task is to help them in some way at least."

The Russian organizations' activities include the following areas: defending Russians' rights, charitable works, cultural life, education, and sociological research.

At the Russian community's request the Russian Federation Government recently sent the republic humanitarian aid in the form of 30 tonnes of food. In November "Russia" for the first time in several decades organized a competition for vocalists, to mark the 100th anniversary of Petr Ilyich Chaykovskiy's death.

In short, the first steps are being taken to unite the Russians in Armenia spiritually. This will definitely reduce the number of those wishing to leave the Republic of Armenia. In the end, the Russians in the republic are the basic link between Russia and Armenia.

Azerbaijan

Guluzade: 'Proper Political Basis' Needed

LD0102155794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Azerbaijan's state advisor for foreign policy Vafa Guluzade believes that no peace talks are possible as long as one fifth of Azerbaijan's territory is occupied by Armenia.

He told INTERFAX that Armenia's armed forces must be removed from Azerbaijani territory, including Nagorno-Karabakh. According to foreign sources, 8,000 Armenian citizens fight on the side of the so-called Karabakh forces, he said.

"Azerbaijan's position is absolutely clear: We must liberate our territories," he said. He also pointed out that Baku would like to do so without losses on either side. He believes that this is quite possible given Armenia's goodwill and Russia's determination.

Assessing the possibility of locating Russian peacekeeping forces in the zone of the Karabakh conflict, he said that these forces might be located on the Azerbaijani-Armenian border and between the conflicting parties after Armenia removes its forces from the occupied territory. He noted, however, that peace-keeping forces may be sent to a country only on the latter's request.

Speaking about the possibility of holding talks in Moscow between the Azerbaijani and Armenian presidents with the Russian president's mediation, Guluzade said that a proper political basis must be created for such talks. "If Russia acts as a mediator, it must find a common denominator for settlement," he said.

Update on Conflict With Armenia

LD3101173694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1644 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry today reported that heavy fighting continued today in the area of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

According to sources in Baku, the Armenians lost 7 tanks and 2 armored vehicles over the last two days of clashes in the Ter-Ter, Agdam and Fizuli districts. Casualties among Armenian troops are measured "in hundreds," the same sources said.

The ministry also said villages of the Kedabek, Agdam, Ter-Ter and Fizuli districts of Azerbaijan and the village of Sadarak of the Nakhichevan autonomous republic came under heavy artillery fire yesterday. The shelling left one person dead and another two wounded.

Sources in the Azerbaijani parliament report that Milli Mejlis Chairman Rasul Guliyev is visiting Azerbaijani positions looking into the situation along the front line and the back-up of Azerbaijani units.

Meanwhile, the press office of the Nagorno-Karabakh army told INTERFAX that Nagorno-Karabakh units were re-gaining control of the highland pass Omar situated in the north of the Kelbajar district of Azerbaijan. The press office said Azerbaijani units suffered huge casualties both in personnel and hardware. Over the last 24 hours, Azerbaijanis lost over 150 troops, 4 tanks T-72 and 2 armored vehicles, while only 6 Nagorno-Karabakh troops were killed and 18 wounded, according to the press office.

The press office also said two Azerbaijani combat jets Sukhoi-25 bombed villages and Nagorno-Karabakh positions in the north of the Martuni district today at noon. According to preliminary reports, the bombing left victims both among servicemen and civilians.

Fighting in North, Northwest

NC3101213694 Baku TURAN in English 1801 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Baku, January 31 (TURAN)—Fightings at the northern and north-western sectors of the front continued yesterday, a source at the Azeri Defense Ministry reports.

The Armenians attempted to reseize the recently lost positions. As a result of fierce fightings the attempts by the Armenian units to advance towards the town of Ter-Ter were suppressed. Two Armenian tanks, one armoured personnel carrier were destroyed and 15 Armenian soldiers were killed during these fightings.

In Kelbadzharskiy region (the northern sector of the front) the Armenian units attempted to seize back the hills and villages retaken by the Azeri Army a week ago. But the enemy failed due to the coordinated actions of the Azeri units.

At the southern sector of the front (Beylagan-Fizuli) fightings for the hills in the vicinity of the city of Fizuli continued. Due to the intensive activity of the Azeri artillery there, 5 Armenian tanks were destroyed and about 20 Armenian soldiers were killed.

A comparative calm is seen at the other sectors of the front.

Gasanov Stresses 'Political Peaceful Solution'

LD3101173194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1610 GMT 31 Jan 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondents Ssevindzh Adullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku, 31 Jan—Talks between Gasan Gasanov, Azerbaijan foreign minister, and Vladimir Kazimirov, special envoy of the Russian president and Russia's roving ambassador, lasted more than two hours behind "closed doors" today. The Russian diplomat, who arrived in the republican capital after visiting Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, brought a draft agreement on cease-fire in the zone of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

In an interview with journalists after completing the talks Vladimir Kazimirov stressed that during his trip to the region the issues raised at the recent meetings in Moscow of the Russian foreign minister with the heads of the foreign political departments of Azerbaijan and Armenia were discussed. In his view, the positions of the sides involved in confrontation remain inflexible. He expressed the hope that, as an initial measure, an accord on a general cease-fire will be reached tonight.

According to Gasan Gasanov, Azerbaijan would benefit from signing an agreement on truce, either short or long-term. The republic, he stressed, adheres to a position of political peaceful settlement to the conflict. If Armenia undertakes to withdraw its troops from Azerbaijan, the latter, in turn, is ready to "immediately start talks and sign an agreement," the minister said. At the same time, touching upon Armenia's position, the head of the republican foreign political department noted that it has not changed significantly and remains inflexible. "Armenia is still trying to talk to Azerbaijan from a position of strength," Gasan Gasanov stressed.

Gasanov on Withdrawal Condition for Cease-Fire

LD3101175294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1659 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku January 31 TASS—Azerbaijan insists that Armenia should pledge withdrawal from occupied territories before a ceasefire can be agreed upon, while a Russian mediator said the ceasefire should come first and should be accompanied by the withdrawal.

"If Armenia pledges to withdraw its forces from the territory of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan, in its turn, will be ready to immediately get down to talks and sign the (ceasefire) agreement", Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Gasan Gasanov told reporters after meeting Russian envoy mediating the settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh Vladimir Kazimirov on Monday.

"It is profitable for Azerbaijan to sign the ceasefire agreement—whether short or long-term. The republic continues to adhere to the position of a political and peaceful settlement of the conflict", Gasanov said, but hinted, however, that the possibility is vague because, according to him, the Armenian position had not changed considerably and remains tough.

"Armenia continues to try and talk to Azerbaijan from positions of force", Gasanov stressed.

Kazimirov, who had visited Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, agreed that the positions of both sides remain tough and urged them to be "more flexible".

"We would like to see more flexibility because the interests of the peoples whose blood is shed in the senseless conflict demand an early end to the bloodshed", Kazimirov said adding that Russia is ready to render any assistance in mediating a ceasefire.

He expressed hope that an agreement on a ceasefire beginning from this night will be reached and will become the first step towards a complete end to hostilities.

The complete end to combat activities should be "accompanied by the pullout of forces from seized territories, by the restoration of transport and energy-transmitting communications, by a return of refugees", Kazimirov said.

He complained that the warring sides "underestimate the necessity of an early end to hostilities" without which, according to him, it is impossible to efficiently settle the conflict.

Advantages in the military situation may go from one side to another while "people are paying for the calculations of political leaders", the Russian mediator said.

Both Gasanov and Kazimirov refused to say whether they had achieved any concrete results.

Combat To Be Halted Upon Withdrawal

LD3101193894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1910 GMT 31 Jan 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Baku January 31 TASS—Azerbaijan is ready to halt all combat actions in the zone of the Azeri-Armenian conflict provided the Armenian troops are immediately withdrawn from the occupied territories, President of Azerbiajan Geydar Aliyev said on Monday meeting Vladimir Kazimirov, special envoy of the Russian president mediating a truce deal in Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Aliyev stressed that the war is going on on the Azerbaijani territory. "Nagorno-Karabakh which is an integral part of Azerbaijan and seven other regions outside Karabakh are currently under complete control of the Armenian troops", he said.

The president resolutely rejected media reports on major losses allegedly suffered by the Azeri army and said it is Armenians who sustain most losses. "The Armenian units are on the offensive and therefore suffer bigger losses. We are waging a just war and defend our land from the occupants", Aliyev said.

The president used the opportunity to appeal to the Armenian leadership and the nation to halt the senseless war. "As the president of Azerbaijan, I guarantee safety to all Armenians who reside in Nagorno-Karabakh and their equal rights with all other citizens of Azerbaijan", he said.

The president noted that his country will never agree to be dictated by force and will never "sign an agreement humiliating for our people and state".

Official: Plan for Russian Troops in Karabakh Unknown

NC3101212094 Baku TURAN in English 1901 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Baku, January 31 (TURAN)—The Adviser of Azerbaijani President for Foreign Policy, Vafa Gulizade told a TURAN's reporter that the government of the republic knows nothing about Russia's intention to bring its troops in Nagorno-Karabakh.

On Saturday [29 January] Russia's INTERFAX news agency reported that Russia prepares to bring its troops to the zone of Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

"We know nothing about that. I don't know the source of this statement of INTERFAX", stressed State Adviser for Foreign Matters, Vafa Gulizade.

Aliyev Receives Kazimirov, Rejects Plan

NC3101201494 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1630 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Excerpts] The Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev received today the Russian president's personal representative Vladimir Kazimirov.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Is there any chance of yet another initiative by the Russian government succeeding? And, who stands to gain from Vladimir Kazimirov's visit to Azerbaijan? These were the questions which most concerned my colleagues who had come to shed light on the talks held today between President Geydar Aliyev and the Russian president's personal representative Vladimnir Kazimirov.

Vladimir Kazimirov again reiterated during this visit to Azerbaijan that Russia has not changed its previous proposals for the peaceful resolution of the conflict, and, in his opinion, it is far more appropriate and useful to renegotiate the peace conditions advanced during the previous consultations than to put forward a new idea each time.

Geydar Aliyev said that the Azerbaijani side has often supported the peace initiative and exerted every effort for the elimination of this meaningless war but every time the Armenian side attached no importance to these proposals.

Kazimirov noted that this time around the concrete aim of his visit to Baku was to submit proposals for the establishment of a cease-fire as of 1 February; and Russia calls on the sides to endorse this initiative by remaining in their present positions.

The Azerbaijani president replied to this proposal by advancing consistent and convincing evidence. [passage omitted]

Vladimir Kazimirov mentioned another point in an effort to have Aliyev change his mind. Kazimirov argued that a new chairman of CSCE Minsk Group has been appointed and it would be good if he took up his duties tomorrow morning with a report that a cease-fire has been achieved in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Geydar Aliyev's reply clarified this issue. [Aliyev statement in Russian omitted]

After the conversation, the republic's president announced his concrete proposals. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov, and State Adviser Vafa Gulizade were also present at the meeting. [end recording]

Further Details on Meeting

NC3101210694 Baku TURAN in English 1800 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Baku, January 31 (TURAN)—This evening President Geydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan received Special Russian Envoy Vladimir Kazimirov. During the talk President Aliyev said that Baku stands for the peaceful regulation of the conflict. But for this Armenia must withdraw its forces from all the occupied Azeri territories. "Since the aggressor continues occupying Azeri territories there is no sense to talk about the cease-fire," said President Aliyev. "Cease-fire talks can begin only after a complete withdrawal of the Armenian forces from the territory of Azerbaijan", he said.

President Aliyev called for the Armenian nation and the Armenian leadership to stop the aggression against Azerbaijan. "We will guarantee the safety and complete observance of the rights of Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians as the citizens of Azerbaijan if they stop anti-governmental separatist actions", Aliyev stated.

TURAN's Moscow correspondent reports quoting a source at the Russian Foreign Ministry that Special Russian Envoy Vladimir Kazimirov arrived to Baku with a Russian plan of regulation of the Armenian-Azeri conflict. The key point of this plan is the stationing of the Russian troops in the conflict zone, i.e. in Nagorno-Karabakh and adjoining territories occupied by the Armenian forces.

According to Moscow's plan Russian units will be stationed at the territories where the Armenian troops will withdraw from. Russian troops will observe the adherence to a cease-fire by the parties to the conflict.

Meanwhile, Vafa Gulizadeh, Azerbaijani State adviser for foreign political matters told TURAN's reporter that "such forces should be stationed first of all along the Azeri-Armenian border, as Armenia is the exact aggressor".

Russian mass media report that Yerevan and Hankendi (Stepanakert) have already agreed to the implementation of the Moscow' plan. President Aliyev said in conclusion that "Azerbaijan will never agree to humiliating accords. We have enough forces for the defense of our country and its sovereignty."

Aliyev Meets Visiting AMOCO Official

NC3101215094 Baku TURAN in English 1801 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Baku, January 31 (TURAN)—The day before Geydar Aliyev received the President of American Oil Company "AMOCO", Robert Blanton.

During the meeting they have discussed the perspectives of cooperation between State Oil Company of Azerbaijan and "AMOCO". In this connection, Robert Blanton said that the contract concerning development of "Azeri-Chirag" oil-fields by consortium of western oil companies was perspective as well. "AMOCO" is among the companies taking part in this project.

The conclusion of this contract is of strategic significance for Azerbaijan. According to Geydar Aliyev, the "terms of the contract are 30 years. That's why before signing such a contract we have to examine everything in details". Aliyev stressed that the leadership of SOCAR [State Oil Company of Azerbaijan] did not agree with the previous terms of the contract worked out by independent expert group led by Manaf Manafov. "We need two-three weeks to clear everything up", said Geydar Aliyev.

So, Azerbaijani leader did not answer the main question: will Baku sign the contract with Western oil companies concerning development of Caspian offshore oil-fields or not?

Meanwhile, Western companies, the members of oil consortium are afraid that such contract would not be signed at all. One of the officials of oil companies told a TURAN's reporter that "we will wait two-three more months and then we will wrap up our work". The same official said in case if Azerbaijan refused to sign the contract, they would start their activities in Turkmenistan or Kazakhstan.

UK To Help Convert to CSCE Communication System

NC2801210994 Baku TURAN in English 1738 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] Baku, January 27 (TURAN)—The government of the UK has decided to give Azerbaijan special equipment, including computers and computer training read the official report from the British Embassy in Baku.

This equipment will enable Azerbaijan to switch over to the communication system within the CSCE framework. This communication system will provide direct, uninterrupted 24-hour communication among the capitals of the CSCE-member states.

The UK Embassy states that this communication system makes possible the exchange of information within the framework of the Vienna agreement on the Reduction of Conventional Weapons in Europe. The report also states that in contrast with offers to the other CIS states, no other state offered assistance to Azerbaijan in this matter. Taking this fact into consideration, the UK decided to give this equipment to Azerbaijan.

The British equipment will be delivered to Baku and begin functioning in the near future.

Georgia

Defense Minister Offers Resignation

LD0102164394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1638 GMT 1 Feb 94

["Urgent" item; by ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi February 1 TASS—Georgian Defence Minister Georgiy Karkarashvili offered to resign on Tuesday, two days before Russian President Boris Yeltsin is to visit Georgia and sign a bilateral military-political treaty.

The resignation offer published by the Tbilisi-based "IBERIA-EXPRESS" newspaper today was confirmed to TASS by officials in the Defence Ministry who failed to provide explanations on the reasons of the resignation.

The press service of Eduard Shevardnadze also refused to give any comments.

Karkarashvili, 28, is the symbol of the national-liberation movement. A former Soviet Army captain, he fought in Afghanistan and was one of the founders of the Georgian Armed Forces.

He participated in the ouster of late President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, fought in rebel Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Karkarashvili replaced Tengiz Kitovani as defence minister after a major military defeat near Gagra in Abkhazia.

He was the defence minister when Georgia lost the war to Abkhazia.

Economics Minister Resigns Over 'Chaos'

AU3101112194 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 21 Jan 94 p 1,3

[Interview with Georgian Economy Minister Mikhail Dzhibuti by Irina Adamashvili; place and date not given: "Mikhail Dzhibuti: '...Becoming Minister Again!'"]

[Text] SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA dossier: Mikhail Dzhibuti is 39 years old. He graduated from the Economics Faculty at M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University and completed his postgraduate studies at Tbilisi State University. He defended his candidate's dissertation in 1980 and his doctoral thesis in 1990. He has been a professor at Tbilisi State University since 1991. Between 1988 and 1993, he was head of department at the Georgian Academy of Sciences Institute of Economics. He began his political career in March 1992 when he became government adviser on economic questions. In October of that year he was elected to Parliament. In November, he was appointed Republic of Georgia minister of the economy.

He is married and has two daughters.

On 10 December 1993, Mikhail Dzhibuti resigned.

[Adamashvili] The plaque outside the office of the minister of the economy still bears your name. Has your resignation been accepted and how has the government responded to it?

[Dzhibuti] As it was solely my decision to quit my functions as minister, it can only be a question at this stage of when a successor will be appointed.

My decision was taken not for the usual reasons of family circumstances or health; I resigned in order to draw the public's attention to the chaos that exists in the management of the economy.

The reaction to my resignation was the same as that when dead people are being discussed, that is to say when nothing is said. The entire reaction came down to the level of human feelings being hurt: Why didn't Dzhibuti warn us? Surely, our relations didn't merit this? And so forth. For me personally, this is more insulting than anything. After all, I am on friendly terms with many people in the Cabinet of Ministers and I have not rejected these relations. I do not agree with the activities that the current Cabinet of Ministers is implementing in the economic sphere. Of course, it is possible to name those principally involved but, nonetheless, it is a question of collective responsibility. Each member of the Cabinet of Ministers is responsible for the policy conducted by the government. I dissociate myself from the Cabinet of Ministers as a whole and from its individual members precisely as far as this responsibility is concerned.

[Adamashvili] What caused you to resign? By what thoughts were you guided in taking this step?

[Dzhibuti] A connection exists between a system and subsystems. A system is made up of subsystems. However, the characteristics of a system are something more than the simple total of subsystems. The characteristics of a system do not repeat the characteristics of any one of the subsystems of which it is made up, whereas any subsystem in a system bears the characteristics of the system. This can be applied to the Cabinet of Ministers where any minister is like a subsystem. When the Cabinet of Ministers acquired the antireformist characteristics of a system and the sphere of activities of this system—parliament and the head of state—did not repulse this immediately, this situation became unbearable for me with my outlook and capabilities.

I thought that my resignation would serve as an SOS and that economic policy would become a subject of serious discussion. Unfortunately, this has not happened. Neither in the government nor in parliament nor in economic institutions and faculties.... All this confirms the state of dreadful torpor not only of those managing the economy but also of general economic thinking and emphasizes the casual approach to the economy in all segments of society and among all politicians.

[Adamashvili] You have said that the reason for your resignation was your disagreement with the forceful methods used to manage the economy. How did pressure from the government on your branch specifically manifest itself?

[Dzhibuti] In Georgia, the Soviet style of managing the economy has not changed. There has been no reform of macroeconomic, branch, regional, and microeconomic management. Socialist enterprises prevail in industry and collective farms in agriculture and supply depots and auctions in the sphere of trade. Almost half of agriculture is subordinate to the Ministry of Defense. That is to say, everything that existed under the Soviet system has not been touched, including the administrative style of management. True, this management is not having as great an effect as it used to since the communist binding mechanism does not exist. However, the directorate is not in a hurry to implement reforms. It likes being the boss even among ruins. This also does not run counter to the interests of the ministries in charge. State ownership was as big a fiction as public ownership under the Soviet system. In actual fact, all property was in the hands of the nomenklatura and this is how it has remained to this day. Only a reform of the system can create state ownership before which both directors and ministers will appear not as lords but as employees.

Political pressure on the economy is also being determined by the fact that the destruction of the district soviets has proved meaningless while managers are, in the main, "Soviet."

[Adamashvili] What have you personally done in order to break through the situation that has taken shape? In what instances were you hindered and prevented from acting in what you considered to be the right direction?

[Dzhibuti] I have done everything in order to expound an economic strategy and tactics in the form of a document. Such a document should have become a guide to action for all branches of management. By following it, it would have been possible to have overcome the obstacles of mentality and ignorance. At the same time, it would have been possible to have judged the activities of certain managers and levels of management. A program aimed at achieving macroeconomic stability and implementing system changes was contained in this document. A draft indicative plan for 1993-95 was drawn up....

I think one cannot pick out individual cases when I was hindered. The obstacle was a permanent one as, for example, of the two draft government decrees, one either contradicted an earlier decree adopted by the government or was aimed at restoring administrative management and individual power.

[Adamashvili] How do you view the situation that has taken shape in the republic's economy today? What timely measures should have been taken to prevent the crisis and the plunging of the coupon? What else can still be done in order to save Georgia's economy? In what direction should we work?

[Dzhibuti] One can characterize the situation as follows: the chaos of disorder. The crisis and the coupon are incommensurable quantities. Let's begin with the crisis.

There are several qualitatively different reasons for the economic crisis in Georgia as well as for that in all postcommunist states. The first set of reasons have nothing to do with internal republican factors: These are the collapse of the Soviet Union and Russia's obvious or not so obvious attitude to events in Georgia. The second set of reasons are of a republican nature: The conflicts in the Tskhinvali zone and Abkhazia, the civil war, internal political disorder, and so forth.

In general, it was impossible to prevent the crisis. However, it would have been possible to have reduced it by removing the internal republican reasons.

As for the coupon, it is connected with the state of the economy and the monetary and credit policy. Depending on what this policy is, the devaluation of the coupon can be halted within a very short period of time. Everything here depends on who is managing the economy and how. The general strengthening of the currency depends on the restoration of the strength of the republic's economy. The coupon itself, that is to say the national currency, is not the reason for the crisis. On the contrary, we have survived almost a year with just the coupon. Since November 1992, Georgia has received no kind of assistance to strengthen its currency system. In addition, a national currency represents the foundation of an autonomous economic system without which political independence does not exist.

In order to save Georgia's economy, we have to refrain from social experiments and implement the declared policy of economic reform and not put spokes in the form of legal nihilism in the wheel of natural economic development due to ignorance, dilettantism, and personal profit. We have to work toward improving people's lives and in so doing, we must follow the path of civilization and not unexplored tracks in our history.

[Adamashvili] In the event that your resignation is not accepted, will you agree to continue in your former position and under what conditions?

[Dzhibuti] At the given stage, unless circumstances change, my decision remains final. However, if a reformist-minded Cabinet of Ministers is formed and guarantees are given that the system transformations contained in those programs and the indicative plan in which I participated will be implemented and the opportunity presents itself, I will work with pleasure and with no less responsibility on implementing the transformations.

There has probably not been a minister anywhere in the world who, having resigned, has not thought about becoming minister again!

Shevardnadze Gives Weekly Interview

LD3101113794 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0902 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Excerpts] [Presenter Nato Oniani] Good morning, friends. As always on Monday, we present to you a traditional radio interview with Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of parliament and head of state.

Batono Eduard, in connection with President Yeltsin's visit [to Georgia on 3 and 4 February], you said the following: This is the most important event in the hundreds of years of history of relations between Russia and Georgia. Before, Russia's Soviet leaders would be visiting a periphery, while today the leader of one of the world's greatest countries is coming to an independent country. The president of a friendly neighboring country is visiting us as equal partners. What are the grounds for such a statement? Is it a Russian foreign policy as regards Georgia? Is it that the world is different today? Or is it Georgia's status, the fact that Georgia is, at least de jure, an independent state?

[Shevardnadze] Thank you. Good morning. The grounds for what I stated are in the law which has not yet been passed, but which will become the rule of life on our planet at the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st. What is unacceptable for and incompatible with the new rules of cohabitation, the new principles—I mean former Yugoslavia, the former Soviet Union, including Abkhazia, Samachablo [South Ossetia], and some others...[pauses] In my opinion this is an anomaly, a vestige of the old reactionary and obsolete thinking and practice.

The epoch of violence, the epoch of the rule of arms as they say, must end, and I am sure it will end. The next century must be a century of universal ideals taking root. The foundation of this is now being laid. We can see and feel that that time is coming. However, these new relations have to be built. The new century, the new order, this new construction consists of bricks and [word indistinct]. One of such bricks is the new relations between Russia and Georgia. These new relations should heal our sores, be it Abkhazia, the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, economic hardship, or something else which accompanies the birth of an independent country. The birth process is painful by itself. I am sure that these pains will go away and a new time will come.

Speaking in general and without going into detail, this is how I see relations between Russia and Georgia and their prospects. These are my hopes.

One more thing. I think that such an approach to these problems and issues—the building of relations among the countries of the former Soviet Union on the model of relations between Russia and Georgia, and enshrined in the documents we are now preparing—is in Russia's interests. Not only Georgia's own interests are involved in this but also Russia's interests. One can talk about Russia's new role at this complex and tense time on our planet.

[Oniani] Such relations must develop between Georgia and Russia. However, the most important subject of discussion at present, during these talks, will be the problem of Abkhazia. I will remind the listeners about something you said last week. Georgia has a lot to say [at the Russo-Georgian summit]. We need a lot which cannot be solved without Russia. First of all, this relates to Abkhazia.

On 10 February the Georgian refugees are to return, initially to Gali rayon. Who can give guarantees to the population of Abkhazia, the refugees, especially in the light of recent events in the Kodori gorge?

[Shevardnadze] Speaking about the old Soviet space, in relation to Georgia in particular, we must pay attention to the fact that a new model for settling conflicts is emerging—a UN effort combined with a Russian peace mission. I do not want to explain this in detail because everybody can see what we are dealing with. Such an approach will be important for the modern world, for Georgia and maybe for other countries as well.

The UN potential is limited at present. Everybody can see this. My experience tells me that the UN is simply unable to cope with all conflicts. Realistically speaking, I think that in the example of our conflict the UN can act as a facilitator in settling the conflict. It can deal with issues relating to the creation of a legal foundation.

[Oniani] So, in general, it could be a mediator but not a doer.

[Shevardnadze] Becoming a doer is a difficult process. Today a UN Security Council meeting is to be held. I know approximately what kind of resolution the Security Council will adopt. This again will not be a direct participation in settling and solving the conflict. Therefore, I think that combining the UN potential and Russia's new role and approach—a model which is to be tested on our example—is rather promising. I attach a certain degree of hope and optimism to that.

As for the return from 10 February, it is difficult to talk about it now because, speaking of real guarantees, the results of the talks between Russia and Georgia should produce such guarantees. That is because, physically and practically, UN forces will not have time to enter the area [before the 10 February deadline].

I understand people who feel that we should start to return [to Abkhazia] from 10 February. I think it is right to look at the issue this way.

[Oniani] Your statements regarding new relations between Russia and Georgia must have irritated the Abkhazian side. I remind you of their recent statements. They gave a negative assessment of Russia's role. The Abkhazian authorities are irritated by new Georgian-Russian relations; for example, Yeltsin's visit to Georgia. In their opinion, Russia is biased in our favor in its involvement in Abkhazia. Are there any grounds to justify this? Can one say that this is a result of steps taken by Georgian diplomacy?

[Shevardnadze] I do not think that we can speak now about our successful steps. You know that a lot has irritated us in this conflict. A lot has been said. However, irritation is a bad symptom when one speaks about high-level politics, big national interests, be it Abkhazian, Georgian, or Russian interests. Therefore, we must all reconcile ourselves to the fact that there are certain principles which should be obeyed by all nations, large and small.

[Oniani] Batono Eduard, last week you met representatives of law enforcement bodies. Among other things, the meeting heard that it is necessary to finally establish and make public who is behind the gangs which have been arrested. It was also said at the meeting that the state apparatus would be examined for drug addiction. You said that you could be the first to take a blood test. There is talk that many persons were arrested but later released, and that these measures stop at a certain level.

[Shevardnadze] I was more specific in my address which was broadcast. Now I would put it this way. Every week and day of our life has its own features. Last week we summed up the results of the state of emergency, discussing what the state of emergency gives us in practice.

I would say that despite everyday difficulties the results are impressive. I will list some results. The situation in the west [of Georgia] has improved. There are no words to describe this. Perhaps it can be said that we extinguished an incipient inferno of civil war. Work at the Security and Interior Ministries has changed. In practice, one can talk about a completely new approach toward work at these power ministries. Their improved style of work is aimed at meeting current demands. A campaign against the criminal world and the mafiosi has been launched. A tax system has been created. There is also much more which was mentioned at the meeting.

When I said that the whole truth must be said and a spade must be called a spade, I meant that unless this happened, the process of establishing order would be painful and long. This must happen by all means. I am not in favor of punishing everyone and sending everyone to prison.

[Oniani] Assessments must be made.

[Shevardnadze] Assessments must be made and people should know the truth about everyone. [Words indistinct] That I will be the first to take a blood test. I meant that drug addiction is a scourge of modern times, which threatens the country and future generation with an explosion. An anti-drug campaign should be initiated by the state. People who do not have the moral right to do it should not lead a struggle against drug addiction. Therefore, state organizations and power ministries, such as the Interior, Defense, Security Ministries, and so on, must be purged of such elements. When I say purged, I do not mean that these people should be cast out on to the street. Some of them should be treated, while others should be given assistance as soon as possible. However, such cleansing is certainly necessary.

I do know about the legal aspects of such a matter. Some people may regard the blood test as a human rights violation. Some people may be unwilling to take a test. That is why I decided—I think no one has any doubt that I am not afraid of taking a blood test [Shevardnadze laughs]—that this process should start with me and the head of state's office. My office will be told about it today and I think that this work will be completed today or tomorrow.

[Oniani] You mentioned your meeting with law enforcement bodies. It is common knowledge that good order and economic performance are interlinked. As soon as there are even small signs of stabilization, the country will be able to breathe more easily. However, the inflation of the coupon is continuing at a terrible pace. At a parliament meeting, the prime minister requested 10 days for a program aimed at strengthening the coupon.

Two options are suggested. The first one is to leave the coupon as a sole legal form of tender. The second option is to introduce an alternative currency. What do you think will save the Georgian coupon today? To what extent will the coupon be supported with the notorious 200 million [currency not specified], which, in the former premier's opinion—I am sorry to say this—you have concealed?

[Shevardnadze] We are dealing with the most serious question here. I would like again to remind our listeners, our citizens, that when, at the Cabinet of Minister's proposal, a decision was made to introduce the coupon, I immediately said that the coupon would lose its value. Nothing else could have happened. Perhaps this process was speeded up by a bad credit policy or some other subjective factors, but sooner or later this process would have started anyway. Those who consider the coupon issue separately from economic matters are wrong and are not familiar with the subject.

There are also suggestions that it is time to think about the lari, and that perhaps the lari can help us. Neither the lari nor any other new currency will save the country unless the economy starts to improve.

This is one of the reasons why I think that President Yeltsin's visit, during which many economic treaties are to be signed, will be an historic event. In addition to what has already been done to strengthen our economic ties, this will be one of the ways to adopt [word indistinct] as soon as possible. If ties are quickly restored and if new ties are established, the economy will be revitalized, which will allow the coupon to become stronger and will allow us to think about a new currency, the lari.

The second option is to obtain large credits. If we receive say, 200 million or 300 million [currency not specified]—which to be honest is not much—it will still not be enough to revitalize the economy and strengthen the coupon, for which at least $1 billion is needed. However, even $100 million or $200 million could help us to a certain extent.

I have not taken the allegations [by Sigua] seriously. Some materials have already been published in the SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA. I want to say now with total honesty that the public should know everything. What are we dealing with? It was a very important letter from the International Monetary Fund which, although it did not contain assurances, gave Georgia prospects for receiving a certain amount of credit and economic assistance. This letter was concealed. It was concealed from us. How did a copy of it end up with Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua? The original is said to have been lost. Meanwhile, he kept a copy of it at home. He was prime minister twice. Would he keep copies of all documents at home? I believe that our citizens should think about it.

There was another letter. The first letter has been published in the press and I demand that the second letter be published as well—the one which I (?referred) to Roman Gotsiridze [former Georgian deputy premier in charge of economic reform], asking him to study it urgently and to put forward his proposals. He has left the Cabinet and [words indistinct].

[Oniani] Excuse me, Batono Eduard, let me ask you to return to the notorious letter which Tengiz Sigua spoke about. Did he ever tell you that this letter existed, and was he ever interested in hearing your opinion about it. Has there ever been any conversation between you two about it?

[Shevardnadze] My morals do not allow me respond to an allegation with a counter-allegation. However, let us take into account my correspondence with and my requests to the IMF regarding credits. How did we get the 70 million ECU [European Currency Unit] credit from the European Community? How many personal requests and appeals have I made? These include my letters to the G-7 which, I would say, man would not be able to read without tears in the eyes, and which were full of pleas for help; my visit to Germany, as a result of which we received 30 million German marks [DM] as an interest-free long-term credit and DM20 million in humanitarian assistance; my requests to the Turkish leadership, which gave us 50 million dollars [not further specified] in credit, and much more. Could a man who has travelled the world begging for a few pennies in credit have left such a promising (?letter) unnoticed?

I think that it is very good that the press has reacted to this, but there is still more to be established. The letter should be published. I wonder why Mr. Gotsiridze did not act [words indistinct].

I am not saying this in order to settle scores [words indistinct] but to explain that if we are able to get more loans, credits, and assistance, then the coupon may become stronger more quickly. If there is no assistance—I will be able to speak about it in more detail after my visit to Washington, during which I will meet the Monetary Fund and others—then it will be a more painful process which will solely be linked with revitilizing and improving the economy.

[Oniani] Batono Eduard, last week saw the creation of a youth organization within the Citizens' Union of Georgia. What is the significance of this event? Has the Citizens' Union split up?

[Shevardnadze] No, it has not. [passage omitted] Why should the creation of a youth organization within the Citizens' Union surprise anybody? I know that some people say that the Citizens' Union has created a version of the Komsomol, [word indistinct] organization, and so on. They do not know the history of international movements. [passage omitted]

Poll Show Georgians Welcome Yeltsin Visit

LD3101150594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1406 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Moscow January 31 TASS—The Georgian public is increasingly inclined to believe that Georgia's future is connected more with Russia rather than with the West, according to the results of a blitz public opinion poll conducted by the local newspaper "FREE GEORGIA."

A total of 51.2 per cent of respondents said that the forthcoming visit by the Russian president to Georgia will have a positive impact on the improvement of relations between the two countries, having age-old historical, economic and humanitarian ties.

Only 37.6 per cent of respondents were skeptical about the future of Russo-Georgian relations, while 4.7 per cent expect Russo-Georgian relations to worsen.

'Highly Ambiguous' Attitudes Toward Visit

PM0102092394 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Feb 94 p 2

[Report by Dmitriy Pavshentsev: "Yeltsin Awaited in Tbilisi"]

[Text] Tbilisi—The Russian president's coming visit to Georgia 3 February is currently at the center of attention of people in the republic, but attitudes to this event—as was to be expected—are highly ambiguous.

Although most political parties are to one extent or another pinning definite hopes on settling relations with their northern neighbor, Georgia's most radical political forces continue to back confrontation with Russia.

These include Boris Kakubava, leader of the Abkhazia Liberation Organization, who has called on the public—primarily on Abkhaz refugees living in Tbilisi (there are currently around 60,000 of them in the capital)—to stage protests during the visit over "Russia's interference in Georgia's internal affairs in the course of the Abkhaz conflict" and to pin responsibility on Russia for defeat in the war.

A similar statement was issued by Irakliy Tsereteli, leader of the Georgian National Independence Party. He believes that President Yeltsin should know that there are forces in the republic which are by no means delighted about Russia's policy on Georgia.

Admittedly, the supporters of street protest demonstrations are not particularly popular at the moment. The dominant opinion in society and among most political parties is that political pragmatism should prevail. People in Tbilisi are confident that many of Georgia's political and economic problems will be settled during the talks. "However different the opinions in our political circles over Russia's policy with regard to Georgia, it remains a fact that Georgia cannot leave Russia's sphere of influence overnight and move to the West's sphere of influence. Things need to be looked at realistically. On this basis, we hope that aspects of our future relations with Russia," Temur Zhorzholiani, chairman of the Georgian Conservative Monarchist Party, said in an interview with this PRAVDA correspondent.

Abkhazia Urges Yeltsin To Postpone Visit

LD0102152394 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0900 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Representatives of the Abkhaz government are urging Boris Yeltsin to postpone a visit to Georgia. On 29 January Yuriy Voronov, deputy chairman of the Abkhaz Council of Ministers, appealed to delegates of the second World Congress of Russian Unity to send a request to Boris Yeltsin to postpone his visit to Tbilisi.

In Voronov's opinion, the Russian president's visit to Georgia could result in bloodshed in Abkhazia because among the documents to be signed is an agreement on major deliveries of Russian military equipment to the Georgian army. Voronov said that Yeltsin's previous two visits to the region led to military conflicts, first in South Ossetia and then in Abkhazia.

Yuriy Voronov also called for the scrapping of special procedures on the Russian-Abkhazian border which are aggravating the crime situation in the border area.

Shevardnadze: Leaders Oppose 'Thaw' in Relations

LD3101151094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1422 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze stated that a thaw in Georgian-Russian relations was opposed by the Abkhazian leaders, because it undermined their separatist policies.

He told a closed conference in Tbilisi on Sunday that ways of settling the conflict in Abkhazia would figure prominently in the talks during Boris Yeltsin's visit beginning February 3.

This conference was attended by members of the organizing committee for Boris Yeltsin's visit, and details about it reached Interfax through well-informed sources in Tbilisi.

Shevardnadze announced that the Russian delegation would include Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, and St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak.

It was also announced that the guards of honor's uniforms did not meet the required standards and that new uniforms would be made for them within the next couple of days. In addition, it was indicated that the guards of honor are not properly trained either, while the military band's professional standards leave much to be desired, so the band of the Russian army group stationed in the Trans-Caucasus may be asked to play.

New motorcycles have been brought to Georgia for use in the honorary escort. Tbilisi's best hotel, Metekhi, will accommodate a press center which will maintain international telephone communications.

Some of Boris Yeltsin's security guards and part of the Russian delegation (consisting of a total of 46 members) have already arrived.

The Russian delegation is expected to have about 200 members.

Abkhaz Servicemen Killed in Galskiy Rayon

LD3101210194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1854 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] According to the Abkhazian Defense Ministry, during the past few days several assaults on Abkhazian military servicemen have been committed in the Galskiy region of the republic.

A car of the Abkhazian Armed Forces was shelled near the village of Otobaya on January 29. As a result, two soldiers were wounded and one killed.

Another 4 mutilated corpses of Abkhazian soldiers were found near the village of Sida. The Defense Ministry said that "all this was done by subversive groups of the Georgian Armed Forces."

A statement made public in Sukhumi on Monday says that in January 1994 units of Georgian gangsters had become more active in the Galskiy region.

Several crossings into the territory of Abkhazia by Georgian military groups were registered in January.

According to reports from Sukhumi, as a result of subversive and terrorist acts in the past 20 days alone 25 Abkhazian servicemen and 12 civilians were killed, and about 15 soldiers wounded.

The Defense Ministry stated that "it cannot tolerate such actions by Georgian group of gangsters and their supporters in the Galskiy region" and "will take decisive measures to eliminate them."

Rallies Held in Defense of Abkhaz Independence

LD3101124194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 31 Jan 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] We have just received a press release from the press service of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet, stating that a wave of rallies has started in Abkhazia in defense of the republic's independence. The multi-ethnic people of Abkhazia believe that the upcoming Russo-Georgian negotiations, the summit meeting, and the signing of an agreement, starting without a full settlement of the Abkhaz-Georgian conflict, could lead to another escalation of military action.

Paper Voices Idea of Federal State With Abkhazia

LD3101201794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1924 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Abert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi January 31 TASS—A Georgian daily has for the first time publicly voiced the idea to turn Georgia into a federal state which can be assessed as a reconciliation hand extended to the rebel region of Abkhazia.

"Taking into consideration the experience of other countries and the current political situation it is necessary to recognise the necessity of a federal structure of Georgia", the Tbilisi-based "TEMI" (Assembly) newspaper said.

"Actually we are living today in a federative state without a federative constitution", it added.

The daily offered Germany as an example for the independent federative Georgian state. It added that autonomous republics had been artificially created in the former Soviet Union and resulted in bloodshed after the Soviet collapse.

Georgia has three autonomies—Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Adzharia. Only the latter succeeded to avoid a conflict.

Many Georgian politicians expressed similar ideas in interviews with TASS. However, every time they asked not to be named as the idea of federalism is assessed by the opposition as betrayal of national interests.

Abkhaz Spokesman on Resumption of Hostilities

LD0102151094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1252 GMT 1 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shcheglova]

[Text] Sochi, 1 Feb—The situation in Abkhazia's Galskiy rayon has recently been exacerbated, ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned from Beslan Bargandzhia, spokesman of the chairman of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet. In his words, the Abkhazian side started preparations for deploying the peacekeeping forces along the confrontation line between the Abkhazian and Georgian troops on the Inguri river. At the same time several armed groups of Georgian troops crossed the Inguri river and penetrated deep into the enemy's territory. Exchanges of fire have resumed in Abkhazia's Galskiy rayon. People have been killed or wounded. According to Beslan Bargandzhia, the Abkhazian side lost 25 people in exchanges of fire over the past month.

The spokesman believes that there is a danger that the hostilities in the republic will resume. He is convinced that it is necessary to speed up the deployment of the peacekeeping forces in the conflict zone, as envisaged by the Geneva accords.

Kavsadze Statement on 28 Jan Abkhaz Talks

LD0102110394 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0500 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] This is a statement by Sandro Kavsadze, personal and plenipotentiary representative of the Georgian head of state, parliament chairman in the sphere of conflict settlement, and state committee chairman for human rights and interethnic relations.

On 28 January 1994, under the mediation of Russia and with the participation of representatives of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, talks were held at the Russian Foreign Ministry between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides.

The talks lasted from 0900 till midnight but, unfortunately, ended without result. The four-party agreement on the voluntary repatriation of refugees and displaced persons was not implemented.

Many hours of exhausting work and searching for agreement and compromise produced a document. However, the Abkhaz side demanded from participants in the talks that persons wishing to return to permanent places of residence who had taken part in combat operations should not be covered by security guarantees. The Georgian side categorically refuses to discriminate between refugees on the grounds of their participation or nonparticipation in hostilities. Almost all the population, including Georgians, Abkhazians, and other nationalities living in Abkhazia, was involved in the conflict.

To punish people who took up arms to defend themselves and their relatives is a serious violation of human rights and an infringement of presumption of innocence. By blaming only the Georgian population, Gudauta makes another attempt to legitimize ethnic cleansing and disguise its desire to prevent a peaceful settlement.

Curfew in Western Towns Extended to 20 Feb

AU0102114494 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 25 Jan 94 p 1

["Edict of the Republic of Georgia State Minister, Chairman of the Temporary Committee on the State of Emergency in Western Georgia, on the Extension of the Curfew"]

[Text] To extend the curfew in the towns of Samtredia, Poti, Abasha, Senaki, Martvili, Khoni, Khobi, Lanchkhuti, Ozurgeti, Chokhatauri, Vani, Tsalenjikha, Zugdidi, and Chkhorotsqu until 20 February 1994.

The curfew operates between 2000 and 0600.

[Signed] Givi Lominadze, Republic of Georgia state minister, chairman of the Temporary Committee for the State of Emergency in Western Georgia.

UN Observer Mission's Mandate Extended

LD0102112394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1052 GMT 1 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations February 1 TASS—The Security Council extended, until March 7, the mandate of a U.N. observer mission in the former Soviet republic of Georgia with a current authorised strength of 55, according to Resolution 896 which was unanimously adopted at the council meeting on Monday.

The U.N. Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) was set up in 1993 to help end fighting between the Government of Georgia and Abkhazian separatist rebels. The council resolution expressed readiness to consider any recommendation from Secretary-General Butros Butros-Ghali in the next few weeks to increase the force up to a strength of 88.

It stressed the need for substantive progress in talks due to resume next month between the two sides on the political status of Abkhazia, fully respecting Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Yuliy Vorontsov, permanent representative of the Russian Federation at the U.N., expressed support for the Georgian side's call to launch a full-scale peacekeeping operation throughout Abkhazia to ensure the return of refugees. He voiced regret that "at this stage the Security Council has been unable to comply with the request made by the Republic of Georgia."

Parliament Decrees To Join International Pact

AU0102120994 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 27 Jan 94 p 2

[Three decrees of the Georgian Parliament on adherence to the international pacts on civil and political rights and on economic, social, and cultural rights issued in Tbilisi on 25 January]

[Text] Decree of the Georgian Parliament on Adherence to the Optional Protocol of the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights

The Georgian Parliament decrees:

1. The Republic of Georgia is to adhere to the optional protocol of the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights.

2. To entrust the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Foreign Affairs with communicating this to the UN secretary general.

3. To entrust the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers with submitting proposals on bringing the republic's legislation into line with the norms of the optional protocol.

[Signed] Vakhtang Rcheulishvili, deputy speaker of the Georgian Parliament.
[Dated] Tbilisi, 25 January 1994.

Decree of the Georgian Parliament on Adherence to the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights

The Georgian Parliament decrees:

1. The Republic of Georgia is to adhere to the International Pact on Civil and Political Rights.

2. To entrust the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Foreign Affairs with communicating this to the UN secretary general.

3. To entrust the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers with submitting proposals on bringing the republic's legislation into line with the norms of this pact.

[Signed] Vakhtang Rcheulishvili, deputy speaker of the Georgian Parliament.
[Dated] Tbilisi, 25 January 1994.

Decree of the Georgian Parliament on Adherence to the International Pact on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

The Georgian Parliament decrees:

1. The Republic of Georgia is to adhere to the International Pact on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.

2. To entrust the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Foreign Affairs with communicating this to the UN secretary general.

3. To entrust the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers with submitting proposals on bringing the republic's legislation into line with the norms of this pact.

[Signed] Vakhtang Rcheulishvili, deputy speaker of the Georgian Parliament.
[Dated] Tbilisi, 25 January 1994.

Opinion Poll on Results of Geneva Peace Talks

AU0102114694 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 28 Jan 94 p 1

[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA "Blitz Poll"—figures as published]

[Text] How do you assess the results of the Georgian-Abkhazian negotiations in Geneva [on 11-13 January]?

The Georgian side was forced to make concessions—36.5 percent.
The Abkhazian side was forced to make concessions—1.6 percent.
The Georgian side achieved indisputable success—7.5 percent.
The Abkhazian side achieved indisputable success—5.1 percent.
Both sides made compromises—23.5 percent.
Difficult to say—25.9 percent.

Poll: More Trust in Journalists Than Government

AU0102114294 Tbilisi REZONANSI in Georgian 27-28 Jan 94 p 1

[Results of opinion poll: "Do You Trust Information...?"]

[Text] Do you trust information from:

Parliament and its chairman [E. Shevardnadze]? Yes—39.3 percent; no—60.7 percent;

The Cabinet of Ministers and ministries? Yes—13.2 percent; no—86.8 percent;

Journalists? Yes—56.4 percent; no—43.6 percent.

This sociological survey was organized by "Inform-Service" among 500 citizens in Tbilisi on 21-23 January.

The results of the poll are unexpected, as it turns out that citizens believe journalists most of all and the government least of all. The reasons for such a lack of popularity regarding information provided by the government must be, first, that the heads of ministries are busy foisting materials in praise of themselves onto the radio, television and press and, second, that the head of the Cabinet of Ministers press center is, in general, hostiley disposed toward journalists.

'Alliance of Communists' Registered

LD3101191494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1504 GMT 31 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tbilisi, 31 Jan—An Alliance of Communists of Georgia has been registered here, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today in the republic's Ministry of Justice.

In an interview to ZAKAVKAZSKIYE VOYENNYE VEDOMOSTI (this Russian-language daily newspaper of the Russian Defense Ministry is published in Tbilisi), Artem Azirov, a leader of the Alliance, said that communists favor the preservation of Georgia's territorial integrity and condemn separatism and nationalism. "We maintain that disruption of links with Russia and other fraternal republics is unnatural. It is unacceptable to oppose, as some politicians do, the closest and the most powerful neighbor, Azirov said. The course of the present Georgian leadership toward the rebirth of economic links within the CIS and the joint use of the potential built by the joint effort is worthy of all-round support."

Trade Offices Slated for Bulgaria, Turkey

AU0102114094 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 27 Jan 94 p 1

["In the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers"]

[Text] **On the Establishment of a Republic of Georgia Trade and Commercial Representation in Bulgaria**

In order to extend trade and economic relations between the Republic of Georgia and Bulgaria, by a Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers decree, a Republic of Georgia trade and commercial representation has been established in Bulgaria (Sofia).

On the Establishment of a Republic of Georgia Trade and Commercial Representation in the Republic of Turkey

In order to extend trade and commercial relations between the Republic of Georgia and the Republic of Turkey, by a decree of the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers, a Republic of Georgia trade and commercial representation is to be established in the Republic of Turkey.

Estonia

Russian Premier's Adviser Tours Army Fuel Dumps

WS3101204894 Tallinn BNS in English 1830 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Tallinn, Jan 31, BNS—Alexander Gusev, an adviser to Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, visited on Jan. 27 the fuel terminals the Russian Army owns in Estonia.

The delegation he led met with representatives of the Scantrans and the Lukoil ES companies and toured the terminals situated in Viimsi on the outskirts of the Estonian capital and on Kopli Peninsula.

A specialist at Scantrans, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed in an interview with BNS that a delegation visited Estonia; he couldn't say, however, who its members were.

The Russian fuel terminals will probably be handed over to Estonia before May and placed under the Defense Ministry, the Scantrans specialist said. Handover deadlines, however, are pending negotiations, he added.

The Scantrans official dismissed speculations that one of the aims of the delegation's visit to Estonia was to determine the companies to which Russia is prepared to sell the terminals.

The underground terminal in Viimsi has a capacity of about 47,000 cubic meters, and the capacity of the overground terminal is 20,000 cubic meters.

More on Ministry's Reaction to Churkin Comments

WS3101134994 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 2029 GMT 28 Jan 94

[Text] The Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is deeply concerned at statements made by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin at a press conference January 27, the ministry's statement reads.

The ministry is particularly concerned since Mr. Churkin's statement and responses to questions are but the latest in a series of appearances and articles by high-level Russian officials. Estonia hopes that Mr. Churkin's statements do not represent a new, even more confrontational and threatening line in Russian foreign policy vis-a-vis the Baltic States.

The ministry agrees with Mr. Churkin statement that "the Baltic states have a vital stake in the successful completion and final victory of democracy and implementation of market and economic reforms in Russia." There is nothing the Baltic states wish more than good neighbourly relations with their big neighbour to the east, peaceful relations which ensure the security, sovereignty and prosperity of all parties and, indeed, of all of Europe, the ministry said.

Estonia would like to view Russia as a normal state which meets normal international requirements and criteria. One obvious requirement is that Russia being a large country refrained from making statements which make its smaller neighbors nervous about Russia's true geo-political intentions. Other obvious criteria, such as the unconditional withdrawal of troops stationed on the territory of other nations against their will, should be met. Moscow's policy of seeking and creating special zones of interest and thereby, in practical terms, denying full sovereignty to its neighbors must stop. Russia should also stop denying basic human rights to Estonian citizens living under its jurisdiction.

While Estonia welcomes Mr. Churkin's "disapproval" of the events of 1940, the fact that he does not consider the Soviet take-over of the Baltic states "annexation or aggression or occupation" leaves out the most important legal and historical dimension of those events.

Mr. Churkin's statement and responses to questions contain numerous misstatements and errors of fact to which the ministry intends to respond in more detail. For a small nation, in the face of constant imperialistic-sounding threats and the continued presence of foreign occupation troops on its soil, to protect its sovereignty through all legal and peaceful means available cannot be viewed as "confrontational" in any sense of the word. Estonia has shown patience and good will and made many concessions in order to solve the problems it inherited from fifty years of Soviet occupation. The fact that Russian officials completely disregard Estonian efforts and instead keep up a barrage of propagandistic attacks and thinly veiled threats of military action does not help to build confidence or to ensure stability.

Defense Chief Refutes Earlier Accusations

WS3101162894 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0807 GMT 31 Jan 94

[From 31 January RAHVA HAAL, PAEVALEHT, pp 1,2]

[Text] Monday, January 31—Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces General Aleksander Einseln held a news conference on Saturday [29 January], answering to the recent accusations by some politicians of harming Estonia's reputation. The general rejected the accusations and explained that some of his expressions may have been caused by misunderstanding or inadequate translation. But he repeated his statement about the regrettable corruption in the Estonian society and added that his January 5 decree on combatting corruption in the army had gone unnoticed by the mass media and the government institutions. Only one private company had expressed its interests in the guidelines, he pointed out.

General Einseln also repeated his criticism of the Laanemaa Volunteer Rifle Company, which he had compared to the Nazi stormtroopers. The company, "an experimental unit organised by politicians", is completely useless to Estonia, he said, but refrained from further comments, since no definite decision had been made. He did express his opinion that forces outside Estonia may have been involved and also cited the judgement of the Finnish military expert, Colonel Matti Lukkari, of the Rifle Company.

The general further criticised the draft law on peacetime military service as useless in its present form and repeated his conviction that the defence concept must be approved by the nation. He rejected the accusations by MP [member of parliament] Katrin Linde and Minister Peeter Olesk, explaining that Linde had never discussed the matters she had included in her draft law. General Einseln pointed out that Olesk had not met him or asked for information concerning the Rifle Company affair before accusing him of failing to react to the events.

Delegation To Leave for Moscow for Negotiations

WS3101161994 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0807 GMT 31 Jan 94

[From 31 January RAHVA HAAL, PUHAPAEVALEHT, pp 1,6]

[Text] Monday, January 31—President Lennart Meri met Russian Ambassador Alexander Trofimov at the latter's request on Friday [28 January]. Ambassador Trofimov handed over an answer to the letter sent to Russian President Boris Yeltsin on January 5. Yeltsin discussed the problems the negotiations have failed to solve so far and expressed his hope that a mutually acceptable solution would be found.

The Estonian delegation is to leave for Moscow today for another round of negotiations. Head of the delegation Ambassador Vaino Reinart said that all four groups of issues—military, border, humanitarian and economic—will be discussed. He hoped that the basic agreement on the troop withdrawal may be initialled this time. But he admitted the existence of disagreements on the compensation of the environmental damage and the armament confiscated in 1940, as well as the ownership of military establishments and the jurisdiction of the Russian military units.

Head of the Russian delegation Vasili Svirin announced that the Russian delegation will hand over the accurate troops withdrawal timetable at the February 1-2 round of negotiations. He added that the Estonian side is attempting to replace the basic agreement with a brief protocol on the troops withdrawal.

Zhirinovskiy Aide on 'Ancient Russian Territory'

LD0102132794 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1100 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Petr Rozhok, Zhirinovskiy's [Russian Liberal Democratic Party leader] representative in Estonia, has appealed to retired Estonian servicemen to form defense units. Rozhok said that should it occur to some Estonian official to deport a Russian officer, the latter should look after himself first and foremost. If—as he puts it—some police control official or devil knows what kind of a representative should turn up, the officer will simply have to kick them out of his flat by force. In Rozhok's opinion, Estonia continues to be an ancient Russian territory. According to him, the Uusikaupunki peace treaty [of 1721] and the 1975 Helsinki treaty have not been repealed by anyone. For this reason the retired Russian servicemen and reservists living in Estonia must know that they are living on ancient Russian territory.

Rozhok also thinks that all Russians living in Estonia should apply for Russian citizenship so as to feel the protection and support of the great Russia. According to Rozhok, he has been persuading Zhirinovskiy not to insert phrases like: Let us bring our tanks but threaten Estonia only with economic sanctions.

Commenting in the SILLAMAE GAZETTE on the claim that it is first and foremost Russian industrial workers who would be hit by economic sanctions, Rozhok says that the Russians have nothing else to lose anyway.

Speaking about Russian-speakers' organizations in Estonia, Rozhok rates highly the activity of the Russian Citizens' Union in Narva and its leader Yuriy Mishin, while calling the [Russian-speakers] Representative Assembly [in Estonia], an academy engaged in destroying Russian movements, parties, and organizations, under the baton of the Estonian Government.

Israel Gives Captured Weapons to Estonia as Gift

LD3101153694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1422 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] TAAS Israel Industries gave Kr [Krona] 20 Mn [Million] (8 Kr = 1 DM [German marks]) worth of weapons to Estonia as a gift.

Maje Preem, the Estonian Defense Ministry press secretary, told Interfax Monday that the weapons, in particular rapid-firing 23 mm guns, machine guns and other captured Soviet-made automatic weaponry, had arrived in Estonia last week.

In the press secretary's words, the gift was "a bit of a surprise" and no decision has been made as to who will receive it.

It arrived with a second lot of the Kr 40 Mn worth of weaponry that Estonia had earlier bought from the same company. (The first lot arrived in May 1993 - IF).

Estonia had signed a $49 Mn deal with the company on delivery of machine guns, assault rifles, rocket launchers and other weapons for the country's armed forces, border guards and police.

Some State Assembly deputies had criticized the deal, saying the government acted incompetently in making it and that the weapons were too expensive and did not meet NATO standards. (Estonia had officially announced before the deal was made that it would use those standards - IF).

The deal was discussed in parliament and ratified by it.

Minister Cites Need for Police Structure Changes

WS3101193894 Tallinn BNS in English 1622 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Tallinn, Jan 31, BNS—Estonian Interior Minister Heiki Arike said at a press conference today some changes in the structure of the country's police forces will be made in the near future.

Arike maintained Estonia is in the clutches of a confidence crisis which involves also the Interior Ministry and the police.

"The specific functions of some departments have not been defined clearly enough," the minister claimed. "This often gives rise to situations where a department, to establish its superiority to others, withholds vital information."

Arike said the Estonian police currently employs about 1,000 detectives and only 600 officers; that is, more men are engaged in investigating crimes than in preventing them.

The interior minister pointed out the need for setting up economic security structures. The Estonian economic police so far works on an elementary level, he claimed.

Italy and Finland have offered Estonia assistance in training policemen investigating economic crimes. Italian experts are now in Estonia to prepare study plans for a seminar in March.

Arike said the authorities are also considering the formation of a special police unit to trace illegal aliens in Estonia.

The interior minister regarded policemen's knowledge of the Estonian language as a major problem. Under a government decree, all policemen who haven't by Feb. 1 passed the language exam are to be dismissed. Only those non-Estonian-speaking policemen's labor contracts may be extended who have a higher or a special police education.

"The dismissal of a great number of policemen at once is very dangerous," Arike said. "Those people know well the structure, the equipment and capacity of the police; if they should go over to crime, it would have terrible consequences."

The minister said the new head of the Police Department will be appointed within a month. At present Chancellor of the Interior Ministry Gero Kartau is the acting director general of the Police Department. Former director Igor Amann was dismissed on Jan. 14.

Arike said his ministry pays much attention also to regulating the relations between the ministry leadership and departments, and defining the functions of the ministry's subdivisions.

Ministry Strives To Improve Public Safety

WS3101155994 Tallinn BNS in English 1401 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Tallinn, Jan 31, BNS—Pumping money into the police is not enough to guarantee security in Estonia, Interior Minister Heiki Arike told BNS at a press conference today.

In the minister's opinion, local governments should come up with money to install locks in the outer doors of big apartment houses, improve street lighting, and create systems to combat car stealing.

"This would certainly do a lot more good in the future than offering easy money to the police," Arike claimed.

The minister said his ministry is working out a national safety program.

"I don't think it is realistic to place hope in a pattern of a police state where strong police forces guarantee national security," Arike noted. "To achieve security, local governments, the police and all citizens must work closely together."

Latvia

U.S. Delegation in Riga for Cooperation Talks

WS3101190294 Riga DIENA in Latvian 25 Jan 94 p 8

[Article by Janis Kulmanis: "U.S. Ready To Cooperate With Latvia in the Field of Security"]

[Text] Riga, 24 Jan—Today, a U.S. delegation arrived in Latvia to discuss the possibilities of American and Latvian cooperation in the military and security field, informed the press center of the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is said that the United States has a special foundation for cooperation with different countries in this field.

Latvian Minister of Foreign Affairs George Andrejevs and Defense Minister Valdis Pavlovskis took part in the meeting, where the NATO cooperation program "Partnership for Peace" was also discussed. G. Andrejevs confirmed Latvia's readiness to participate in this program; there is already a group of specialists prepared to begin work on this program. U.S. representatives have expressed the view that the "Partnership for Peace" program might stimulate mutual cooperation among the Baltic States in the field of security, and have advised Latvia to participate in joint military maneuvers in 1994 in the framework of this program.

Both Latvian ministers acquainted their guests with the main points of the Latvian security concept. A. Andrejevs expressed anxiety concerning Latvia's security during the Skrunda radar station activities, which could cause various misunderstandings and incidents. The U.S. side responded that in the event of danger Latvia can consult NATO, taking advantage of "Partnership for Peace." The head of the U.S. delegation explained that America understands Latvia's anxiety in regard to its safety, and therefore contacts for mutual cooperation are being established. In addition, the United States is interested in long term cooperation with Latvia.

V. Pavlovskis spoke about financial problems in the defense forces. The U.S. delegation said that limited financial support can also be expected from NATO. This organization could, in the future, support the Latvian mission and cover expenses of joint military maneuvers.

Nordic Ministers Favor Baltic Battalion

LD3101142394 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Nordic countries support the plan to create a UN battalion from the Baltic states and could help train such a battalion and provide it with everything necessary.

During a meeting of the Nordic foreign ministers in Stockholm, Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha af Ugglas said that the Baltic states have expressed a wish to participate in the Partnership for Peace program and to create a UN battalion. The Nordic countries are already training officers of the Baltic states for this job.

According to Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen, Denmark has invited representatives of the Baltic states to a meeting in Copenhagen on 9 February. I would also like to discuss the place of the Baltic states in the Partnership for Peace program, he said.

The Nordic foreign ministers have expressed the hope in a joint statement that an agreement will be reached in the near future on the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Latvia and Estonia. The ministers also stressed that all countries should respect the sovereignty and independence of the Baltic states. The Baltic states should determine their own foreign policy direction without outside pressure.

French Deputies Visit Saeima, Review Politics

WS3101194194 Riga LETA in English 1830 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Riga, January 31 (LETA)—Friday [28 January] the Secretary of the Saeima [parliament], Imants Daudiss, the Foreign Minister, Georgs Andrejevs, and the Deputy Chairman of the faction "Latvia's Way", Indulis Berzins, met with the deputies of the National Assembly of France.

According to the Saeima press service Andrejevs, giving a review on a current political situation in Latvia, described the "Latvia's Way" faction as centristic being criticized both by rightists and leftists. He was also quoted as saying that "we are not confronting with the opposition on the Latvian past but still there are differences of opinions concerning current and future problems." Andrejevs indicated the presence of the foreign military forces, migrants entering after the World War Two and complicated economic situation in Latvia as the factors threatening Latvia's independence.

Those who have not lived here, said Andrejevs, are not easily aware of the situation in Latvia. "We are constantly given instructions how to solve our problems, which are probably standard for European democracy, but in today's Latvia may lead to common destabilization." Andrejevs pointed out the most extensive influx of migrants was until 1970. The fact makes unacceptable quotas fixing on the basis of the number of years spent in Latvia, as the CSCE experts have proposed.

Russia failed to fulfill the resolution by the last Supreme Council of Latvia on the troops withdrawal from Riga by the end of 1992, and from Latvia by the end of 1993. The Russian forces stationed currently in Latvia threaten not only Latvian but also Lithuanian independence, said the minister.

Indulis Berzins said the democratic forces in Russia did not work out a new conception for its foreign policy, causing a return to the doctrine of empire. The Russian troops in Latvia have a negative effect on the interior political situation in Latvia. "We want to be secure today while the "Partnership for Peace" proposed by the United States provides security for distant future," said Berzins.

Gorbunovs Says Skrunda Referendum 'Premature'

LD3101200994 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1800 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Parliamentary Speaker Anatolijs Gorbunovs, in an interview to the Baltic News Service, today expressed the view that it is premature to take the decision to hold a referendum on the issue of the Skrunda radar. Gorbunovs does not consider the holding of the referendum the best political means to tackle the problem of the Skrunda radar at the moment, because in that case the inter-state talks with Russia on troop withdrawal could come to a halt. The discontinuation of the talks in the present Latvian situation would be very undesirable, Gorbunovs stressed.

The visit of the Saeima delegation to the United States shows that possibilities of tackling issues related to the withdrawal of the Russian army have not been exhausted, Gorbunovs said. According to him, at the moment Latvia's main opportunity for tackling the issue of the army withdrawal is to continue interstate talks with Russia.

The Latvian National Security Council has not passed a specific resolution on holding a referendum on the Skrunda radar issue, because a law on referenda has not been passed. According to Gorbunovs, the drafting of such a law would take about one month.

Paper on Leader Reactions to Kozyrev Remarks

WS0102094794 Riga DIENA in Latvian 21 Jan 94 p 1

[Article by Janis Kulmanis: "Everybody Can Understand Kozyrev's Speech as They Please"]

[Text] Riga, 20 Jan—Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs told DIENA today that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has received a copy of the speech by Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev [advocating the retention of Russian troops on the territory of the former USSR]. G. Andrejevs pointed out that this is "a speech that was thought over with great care so as to please everyone." Still, it has no direct link with the Baltic states and everybody can interpret it as they please.

DIENA also interviewed leaders of several parliament factions, with the aim of discerning prevailing opinions in the Latvian parliament.

Edvins Kide (Unity for Latvia) told DIENA that Kozyrev's statement was dictated by the existing state of affairs, because "Kozyrev has to show sternness to keep his post." As E. Kide saw things, the speech could also be explained by pressure from the Russian Liberal Democratic Party on foreign policy.

Aleksandrs Kirsteins (LNNK) [Movement for Latvia's National Independence] told DIENA he would not pay much attention to what Kozyrev is saying because "at the moment, Russia has no government." In his opinion, A. Kozyrev is keen to keep his post in the Russian Government. A. Kirsteins was more impressed by DIENA's interview with Russian Ambassador to the United States Vladimir Lukin, a deputy to the State Council from the Javlinsky-Boldyrev-Lukin bloc. The leader of the LNNK faction believes that the standpoints of Latvia and Russia could come closer together if Lukin became chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission in the Russian parliament.

Filips Strogonovs (Equal Rights) told DIENA that Kozyrev's speech could be regarded from two points of view. He recalled that about 700,000 inhabitants of Latvia lack citizenship. "This gives Russia cause to speak in the name of these 700,000," said F. Strogonovs. Therefore, he thinks, it is important to resolve the problem of citizenship. On the other hand, the Russian geopolitical interests mentioned by Kozyrev are ungrounded because they reflect only Russian political ambition. "Our standpoint in this matter is the following: Latvia is an independent sovereign state, but we should not give cause, by way our policies, for other countries to interfere in our internal affairs," said F. Strogonovs.

Aivars Kreituss (faction of the Democratic Party) confessed to DIENA that on the one hand, Kozyrev's utterances should not be treated seriously. He also saw the willingness of the Russian foreign affairs minister to obtain an important post. On the other hand, emphasized A. Kreituss, it is necessary to put in order and ensure Latvia's defense. "We should find twice as much money for its needs, at least to provide it with ammunition," said Kreituss.

Maris Grinblats (Fatherland and Freedom) expressed his view to DIENA that A. Kozyrev's speech is somehow linked with the considerable influence of communists and liberal democrats in the Russian parliament. M. Grinblats concluded that Russian President Boris Yeltsin, as well as A. Kozyrev, are more inclined in the direction of these forces, to amortize the position of the more aggressive part of society. M. Grinblats said the policy of Russia during the last years indicates nonetheless, that the administration of B. Yeltsin prefers economic methods to keep the Baltic states in Russia's sphere of influence, rather than strictly military pressure.

The leader of the Latvia's Way faction, Andrejs Pantelejevs, expressed his opinion to DIENA very laconically: "At the moment, we do not have sufficient information; it would be tragic if this statement was connected with the Clinton and Yeltsin summit; but it is not tragic if it is just a misunderstanding."

Aida Predele (Union of Christian Democrats), in speaking to DIENA, deemed the statement by the Russian foreign minister as a high-level provocation.

Lack of Citizenship Law Mars CE Membership Hope

WS3101205294 Tallinn BNS in English 1830 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Riga, Jan 31, BNS—Latvia is unlikely to enter into the Council of Europe (CE) during its current session because the Baltic country still lacks a citizenship law, said Aivars Endzins, one of Latvian delegates to the CE Parliamentary Assembly (PA).

The Latvian delegation participated in the CEPA Strasbourg session Jan. 24-28.

During the session, Latvian delegates received CEPA experts' recommendations on the citizenship issue together with Secretary-General Catherine Lallumiere's letter.

Latvia will consider the recommendations at the top-level, Endzins said.

Saeima (parliament) Foreign Affairs Committee head Alexander Kirsteins addressed the assembly's Migration and Refugees Committee on the social integration problems of Latvia's Russian-speakers.

During lobby conversations, French, British and German delegates worried Latvians by attaching a priority to interstate pacts with Russia over Russian troops' withdrawal from Latvia and Estonia, Endzins said.

The all-European transportation problems was another topic for consideration at the session, Endzins said. Estonian and Lithuanian delegates said they hoped to get a financial help by the CE to build the Via Baltica highway.

The Baltic delegations closely cooperated during the session, said Latvian delegation secretary Rolands Blezurs. Blezurs also spoke highly of Estonia's Tune Helam's election as CEPA's vice president.

Latvia was also represented to the session by MP's [member of parliament] Andrejs Pantelejevs and Alexander Kirsteins.

Bojars Interviewed on Policies, Security, NATO

WS2801152694 Kaliningrad STRAZH BALTIKI in Russian 20 Jan 94 p 3

[Interview with Juris Bojars, chairman of the Latvian Democratic Labor Party, by A. Borisov; place and date not given: "One Must Be Pragmatic"]

[Excerpts] Fate and, to be more exact, a short line in his life record—22 (!) years ago Juris Bojars worked in the KGB—have willed that this well-known Latvian lawyer was deprived of the possibility to stand for the Saeima [parliament] elections. Finding himself outside the parliament, however, Bojars did not remain outside big politics. My interlocutor is not only chairman of the Latvian Democratic Labor Party [LDDP], but also director of the Latvian Institute of International Relations. [passage omitted]

[Borisov] **I address my next question to you as a specialist in international relations. It is common knowledge that recently the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution on the violations of human rights in Latvia....**

[Bojars] The resolution does not mention human rights violations. It deals with the problems of these rights. There is not a single state that would not have similar problems.

[Borisov]**One of the reasons why Latvia did not join the European Council was the delay in adopting the law on citizenship. Is the approval of this law in a national referendum a correct move?**

[Bojars] Such a decision has not yet been adopted. Only [Prime Minister] V. Birkavs has expressed some considerations about this issue. I think that this option does not run counter to the principles of democracy. However, my personal opinion is that in such a case we must submit the entire package rather than just one draft law for public approval. People must have a chance to choose. Russia's experience has demonstrated that if they have one draft constitution they may either accept or reject it. The people think: How can we live without a constitution? They approve of it as a result, without either discussing or reading it. The same will happen in our country because the majority of the population does not have the possibility or the desire to read this document.

[Borisov]**As there is a dilemma in foreign policy whether to lean toward the East or the West, what would you advise?**

[Bojars] To be pragmatic and do what is necessary. Regarding current tendencies.... Yeltsin is also accused of his love for the West. This is in fashion now. Since we were so firmly tied to the East, there is nothing surprising in our current yearning for the West.

[Borisov] **Speaking of security, is there any sense in hurrying to be under NATO's wing?**

[Bojars] Under the current circumstances, it is very difficult for Latvia to defend itself on its own. One can understand our officials who have found the only option for action—to search for protection in NATO, although Russia does not like such a course of events. In such a case, Russia could behave in a natural and wise manner—not to disseminate threats about turning Latvia into its province, but to conclude an agreement with us on mutual security and to provide guarantees. Certainly, anyone may tell you that before the war Latvia and the USSR had about seven such agreements, all of which were violated. So, where are the guarantees that someone like Zhirinovskiy will not do the same after assuming power? Given NATO's strength, relations with this bloc may be one of the possible replies.

[Borisov]**You were very critical of Godmanis' government once. Have you preserved the same attitude toward Birkavs' cabinet?**

[Bojars] My answer is as follows. The current circle of authorities does not differ greatly from the former one. I must admit, however, that the policies of the current government are less chaotic, while Godmanis was a very messy person. Birkavs is much more reserved. Moreover, he is a lawyer and he is more accustomed to some order and a system, which is also positive. Godmanis was like someone from the Popular Front, although he did not found this organization. I would say frankly that he simply stuck to the Popular Front. He took advantage of this situation and resorted to populist ideas that are not exploited by the current cabinet. The latter is a truly right-wing organization devoted to conservative ideals. The government moves concerning pensioners do not indicate any social trend in the current cabinet of ministers or "Latvia's Way." Therefore, my attitude toward this government is critical and reserved.

[Borisov]**The LDDP lost the elections. Why?**

[Bojars] Not only we but all left-wing parties suffered a defeat. This is quite natural. The Socialist International has established a certain regularity—in postcommunist societies the leftist parties usually lose the first elections, while in the second elections the picture changes considerably. The same is typical of Russia. True, there are no strong noncommunist leftist parties there. Thus, we have to deal with a historical regularity. Thorough reforms are in store for our party in the beginning of next year. We are bringing them in line with the best traditions of European social democracy.

[Borisov]Thank you for the interview.

Lithuania

President Brazauskas on Russia, Belarus

BR0102152894 Brussels LE SOIR in French 29 Jan 94 p 2

[Interview with President Algirdas Brazauskas by Pierre Lefevre; place and date not given: "Algirdas Brazauskas on Partnership For Peace, Russian Designs, the Baltic Countries, and Instability in Belarus"]

[Text] [Lefevre] By signing your membership in the Partnership for Peace this Thursday at NATO, you expressed your wish to become a full member of the Atlantic organization. Do you not fear that this will give rise to a feeling of isolation in Russia?

[Brazauskas] I thought of that, and while expressing this wish I clearly underlined that our approach was in no way an act of hostility or enmity toward Russia—especially since the Partnership for Peace program allows anyone to participate who wants to. This possibility is valid for Russia and for all the other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. It is a peace program which aims to establish peace by any means possible. It is a concrete formula of collaboration that is not restricted to statements in favor of peace, but which offers concrete collaboration with a view to building up this peace. Those who think, on the other hand, in terms of blocs, of hostility, of creating dissent, are those who are expressing relics of the Cold War.

[Lefevre] Have you not gotten the impression that Moscow was vetoing the membership of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in NATO?

[Brazauskas] To veto something you must first be entitled to do so. Moscow has certainly expressed clear opinions on this matter, but I think that this partnership program is going to continue developing, that a growing number of countries are going to join it, and that even Moscow will come around to it little by little—especially since the partnership program is in no way an offensive system. Indeed, it is a system of exchange, of consultation, of common learning, and of jointly perfecting a number of mechanisms that must work on behalf of peace.

Kozyrev: Rhetoric that Harms Relations Between Countries

[Lefevre] Do you think that the United States will one day give Lithuania and the Baltic countries the full security guarantee of the North Atlantic Treaty, and by when?

[Brazauskas] It would be incredibly thoughtless of me to suggest confirmation of this or any dates. All I can say is that this partnership and consultation mechanism will develop and will mature on its own.

[Lefevre] What do you think of the recent rhetoric of Russian Minister Kozyrev, who called the Baltic countries areas of special interest for Russia?

[Brazauskas] This kind of abstract rhetoric never contributes anything. All it does is create confusion and damage relations between countries. We are a sovereign, independent country and a member of the United Nations and the Council of Europe. We also hope to enter the European Union. What does this kind of rhetoric mean? What gives them the right to make it and what might its scope be? We signed agreements with Russia on a whole series of problems. Take, for example, the withdrawal of the Russian Army, which has now left Lithuanian territory, or the matter of ethnic minorities. We have a Russian minority, the vast majority of which, took Lithuanian citizenship when it was given the opportunity to do so.

Of course there are still some major problems to be resolved and we are continuing the negotiations with the hope that we can resolve them one by one. Naturally, there is the matter of the territory of Kalingrad, which is part of Russia, but which is cut off from it. We understand that Russia has interests there and we are continuing the negotiations with the Russians with regard to this territory. As for Mr. Kozyrev's rhetoric, he did not say what interests they were. If there are Russian interests in Lithuania, they must be defined and we will carry out negotiations on them like we are doing with the other issues. Whether it is a big or a small country, we must all live according to the same legal rules and apply them in all circumstances.

[Lefevre] After the December elections in Russia, and the recomposition of the Moscow Government, should we expect a tougher line in Russian foreign policy?

[Brazauskas] I do not think so. Anyway, relations between countries are never a constant. They change; there are ups and downs.

[Lefevre] The Estonian prime minister recently wrote that the Russians must not be treated like spoiled children by sheltering them from blame. Otherwise they will grow up into arrogant and tyrannical adults. Do you share this point of view?

[Brazauskas] It is for similar reasons that I say that the legal rules and their application must be the same for all the countries, whether it is Lithuania, the United States, Luxembourg, or Russia.

[Lefevre] In view of recent developments in Russia, do you think that it needs less shock and more therapy, as Mr. Strobe Talbott said?

[Brazauskas] The therapy is still needed. I think that the negotiations between the countries and the way of fixing their relations via these negotiations are actually therapeutic acts. I do not believe in shock therapy or in therapeutic shocks, neither in international relations nor in the domestic policy of a country.

Belarus: Something To Do with the Extradition of Communists

[Lefevre] How do you interpret the dismissal of Belarus President Shushkevich by a communist dominated parliament?

[Brazauskas] Every country has its own problems. The situation in Belarus took a long time to come to fruition. This also has something to do with the agreement concluded between Belarus and Lithuania, which led to the extradition of the leaders of the Lithuanian Communist Party, who are now accused of serious crimes and being tried. We have a legal cooperation treaty with Belarus and, in accordance with this treaty, we have handed over a number of Belarus citizens who were killers and we have asked for the extradition on criminal charges of Mr. Burokevicius, who was the first secretary of the Communist Party faithful to Moscow as well as Mr. Jermalavicius, who was the party ideologue (these two officials, who were hostile to Lithuanian independence, are considered by Vilnius to be responsible for confrontations during which Soviet troops killed 14 people near the radio and television building in January 1991—LE SOIR editor's note). We are entitled to demand that these criminals be handed over to us and that is what was done. The Belarus Parliament expressed a different opinion and contested the extradition. Nevertheless, as a neighboring state, we intend to continue maintaining good relations with Belarus.

[Lefevre] Does this mean we are witnessing a sort of pro-communist revanchism in Belarus?

[Brazauskas] No. I would not use those terms. However, political relations in Parliament are indeed different in our country.

Europe: Our Wish Is Obvious

[Lefevre] How do you assess the welcome which the European Union has given to Lithuania?

[Brazauskas] We were welcomed very well indeed. Our wish is obvious. We want to draw closer to the European Union as fast as possible.

[Lefevre] Are you satisfied following the talks you recently had with [European Commission President] Jacques Delors?

[Brazauskas] For the moment we are demanding to join the European Union so it is hard for us to ask questions. We can only express our wishes.

President, Opposition View 'Partnership for Peace'

LD3101134594 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas told journalists at his news conference today about his visit to the Netherlands and Belgium as well as the Partnership for Peace [PFP] agreement, which he signed at NATO headquarters.

Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of the Seimas opposition also gave his view on the signing of the agreement.

Here is Audrius Baciulis with the details:

[Baciulis] Brazauskas stressed that in the process of carrying out the Partnership for Peace program, the Lithuanian Armed Forces would grow stronger and come closer to NATO standards. The important point here is that the quality of the Armed Forces and not the quantity will change. At the moment it is too early to tell how much this will cost. Lithuania is receiving significant help from the Scandinavian countries. Britain has already undertaken the training of the peace-keeping unit. Of course, this is not a matter of one day but of a long period of time, Brazauskas said. It would not be serious to give you figures out of a hat, the president said, however, one must not forget that peace and stability involves considerable expense.

Brazauskas stressed that finances for the formation of the peace- keeping battalion would not be taken from the education, culture, or social security budgets. Already this week experts from Denmark and Germany will arrive in Lithuania to discuss possibilities for Lithuania to practically participate in the Partnership for Peace program. Some NATO states will help to set up the Lithuanian national security doctrine. Apart from this, NATO countries will send their experts [to advise] in the negotiations on military transit to Kaliningrad.

The possibility of signing a free trade agreement between Lithuania and the European Union this year and also the possibility of receiving the status of associated member of the European Union was discussed by Brazauskas during the meeting with Jacques Delors, chairman of the European Commission, in Brussels. Delors was in favor of such a possibility.

During the president's visit to the Netherlands, agreements on maritime transport and investment inducements were signed. During talks with Belgian Prime

Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene agreement was reached to accelerate the signing of such agreements between Lithuania and Belgium.

Answering a question on whether the Partnership for Peace program guaranteed Lithuanian security, Brazauskas remarked that for some reason everyone wants security guarantees at once. Of course there are no specific security guarantees in the Partnership for Peace program as it would be in the NATO treaty. However, many important articles have been included in the program, for example, the possibility of inviting NATO consultants in the event of a threat, then there is joint military planning with NATO, and so on. When all this is put together you can see that the guarantees are given, Brazauskas said.

Landsbergis also gave his comments on the Partnership for Peace documents at his news conference today. He noted that the Partnership for Peace program was a framework for all the states and not just Lithuania alone. It is important how this framework will be filled, he said.

Because the agreement gives the right to hold consultations with NATO if danger arises, Landsbergis proposed that such consultants should be invited to Lithuania now. According to Landsbergis, Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev's latest statements, the events in Belarus and her statements with regard to Lithuania, already enables Lithuania to speak about a threat to the integrity of her territory.

Landsbergis drew attention to the fact that Brazauskas spoke very cautiously in Brussels and that his statements there were very cautious and reassuring for Russia. He expressed concern about the protracted negotiations on military transit to Kaliningrad. Such military transit may involve Lithuania into the structures of CIS military interaction, Landsbergis said. At the same time he did not reject the possibility that military transit to Kaliningrad through the territory of Lithuania could exist, however, this should be carried out on one-off agreements only and not on agreements.

The possibility of inviting international experts for the preparation of this agreement was regarded by Landsbergis as a shield and means for making the international community used to the idea of such an agreement.

Landsbergis Urges Use of Partnership Rights

WS3101205794 Tallinn BNS in English 1830 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Vilnius, Jan 31, BNS—Under the presentiment of an international threat, Lithuania could exercise its partnership right to invite NATO consultants to Lithuania, said the leader of the Lithuanian parliament's rightist opposition.

Vytautas Landsbergis told reporters Monday [31 January] that consultants from NATO could have been invited to Lithuania during the signing of the Partnership for Peace program, to reflect on whether Lithuania is safe or not, confronted with Russia's current policy and certain statements of Belarus. The opposition leader said such a visit would enhance Lithuania's security.

Landsbergis said Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas' speeches in the West were very cautious and expressed a position on "joint movement" that is soothing to Russia. He said the president's thoughts about a security zone from Vancouver to Vladivostok "resembles explanations by the Russian foreign minister that Partnership for Peace is a Russian, not an American idea."

Brazauskas Wants 'Higher Level' Talks on Kaliningrad

WS3101193794 Tallinn BNS in English 1622 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Vilnius, Jan 31, BNS—Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas said the problem of border delimitation between Lithuania and the Kaliningrad region requires talks on a higher level than the region's administration.

At a press conference Monday [31 January], Brazauskas described relations with Russia as normal, which sometimes improve and sometimes get worse. He said Lithuania's statement on intentions to join NATO "left a certain shade" in bilateral relations. But when Lithuania signed Partnership for Peace, no comments followed from the Russian side, he said. "I think this is not such a bad sign."

Brazauskas said he raised the problem of Russian military transit through Lithuanian territory during his meetings at the NATO headquarters in Brussels. The president said he asked foreign experts to present their recommendations on the problem.

Brazauskas said he emphasized to representatives of NATO nations that Lithuania does not question the Kaliningrad region's subordination to Russia, which is a legal successor of the former Soviet Union. The president said Lithuania will continue talks with Russia and will carefully listen to the opinion of others.

Commenting on Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's forthcoming visit to Lithuania, Brazauskas denied suppositions that Lithuania might create a separate military alliance with Ukraine. "I don't think that having signed the Partnership for Peace program we can participate in any other alliance." The Lithuanian president said Lithuania and Ukraine should primarily discuss a number of economic issues.

President Hopes To Maintain Government Stability

WS3101204994 Tallinn BNS in English 1830 GMT 31 Jan 94

[Text] Vilnius, Jan 31, BNS—Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas told reporters Monday [31 January] that he will use all of his constitutional rights to preserve a stabile government and parliament until the very end of their term.

The president said he was surprised by attempts of the six-seat Social Democratic faction to oust the government.

Brazauskas said the social democrats are either trying to gain popularity or to clear the way for other political forces. In his view, the Social Democratic Party can hardly expect wider representation in government structures.

Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of the parliament's rightist opposition, said the initiative can be discussed only when the social democrats will show how many members of the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDLP] faction have signed under a petition demanding to take a no confidence vote in the government. "Otherwise, these are only senseless games or attempts to score political points," Landsbergis said at a press conference Monday.

The opposition leader said "the replacement of one LDLP government by a different LDLP government" would be an advantage only to the party in power, which, possibly uses the social democrats for the purpose.

Landsbergis said the ruling party would get an opportunity to say that nothing should be expected from a new government for at least six months. This would be a new possibility for the LDLP to defend itself against criticism, he said.

Last week, the social democrats proposed to take a no confidence vote in the government and urged other political forces to back their initiative.

Pollution From Possible Russian Oil Drill Feared

WS3101151694 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 25 Jan 94 No 16 p 2

[Report by Ona Stankeviciute: "Past Ghost Is Reviving"]

[Text] On 11-12 January, a conference of the "Curonian Spit" national park of the Russian Federation was held in Zelenogradsk (Kaliningrad Oblast). Apart from talk about the employment of local residents, environmental protection, and other issues, the mention of oil found in this area was casual as it were. Our neighbors, the Russians, intend to utilize this oil in the future by installing a DF-6 test drill. The Lithuanians would not feel anxious if it were not the same site that caused so many emotions in 1986. All intelligent people in Lithuania defended the Curonian Spit against the possible threat at that time.

Sensing huge profits, several German firms have submitted their construction projects. Although the final decision has not yet been adopted, Lithuania's fears may be valid. In case of an accident or some other emergency, southwest winds prevailing in this area would float all pollutants toward Lithuania's shores. All this risk would be undertaken only for a meager of oil resources which, according to scientists, equals the two-year processing capacity of the Mazeikiai refinery.

Russian Explosives Said Left at Nemirseta Base

WS3101150694 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 25 Jan 94 No 16 p 6

[Unattributed report under the "News From Europe's Center" rubric]

[Text] While withdrawing from the Nemirseta base [near the seaside resort of Palanga], a Russian Army unit left quite a number of dangerous explosives with unspecified detonators. Soldiers of the Lithuanian Army stationed there also failed to clear them away. Our servicemen are now moving out, and there is no shortage of amateurs in search of gunpowder.

Visa Requirements, Border Crossings Discussed

WS0102163194 Tallinn BNS in English 1433 GMT 1 Feb 94

[Text] Vilnius, Feb 01, BNS—A group of Lithuanian experts dealing with visa and transit problems left for Minsk Tuesday [1 February], to discuss the introduction of visa requirements and the opening of new border crossings with Belarussian officials.

Virgilijus Bulovas, head of the group, said the two-day talks in the Belarusian capital will be mainly devoted to visa requirements for the CIS that will come into effect March 1.

Bulovas said he intends to hold several "semi-official" meetings in the Belarusian parliament and the Foreign Ministry. State border delimitation and the problem of the Adutiskis railroad station may be touched upon during these meetings, he said.

As previously reported, Lithuanian and Belarusian premiers signed an agreement last September saying that the Adutiskis station belongs to Lithuania, but some Belarussian lawmakers recently began to question the lawfulness of the decision and demand to revoke it.

Kazys Bobelis, chairman of the Lithuanian parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, said it is necessary to determine border between Lithuania and Belarus as soon as possible and to start developing neighborly and trade relations.

Commenting on the replacement of the Belarusian head of state, Bobelis told Lithuanian radio Tuesday that a victory was won by politicians who advocate closer relations with Russia and whose policy is most likely to differ from that of the previous leadership of the parliament.

Former LDDP Member Discusses Faction Faults

WS2801170094 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 22 Jan 94 No. 15 p 4

[Interview with Kestutis Gaska, Seimas deputy and former LDDP faction member, by Aldona Svirbutaviciute in Vilnius; date not given: "K. Gaska: 'The Winner Must Think About Future Elections...'"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The reason for the interview with Seimas [parliament] Deputy Kestutis Gaska was clear. He decided not to register himself with the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDDP] faction. This decision was a long time in the making, and K. Gaska agreed willingly to explain the reasons that prompted him to make this choice.

[Svirbutaviciute] **To what faction do you belong now?**

[Gaska] Formally, I still belong to the LDDP faction, but I have said that I will not register with it. The question whether I will belong to this faction in the future would be more correct. No, I will not. Such is my inner principle—I can no longer stay in this faction.

[Svirbutaviciute] **What are the reasons?**

[Gaska] My principles, as a Seimas deputy elected from the Varena region, do not comply with those of the LDDP faction. The latter works in isolation. It cannot or does not want to see anything else except the function of lawmaking. Almost all faction members have come to the Seimas according to the list and they do not have their constituents, with the exception of A. Kuncinas and N. Germanas who have their own electorate. I think that others, who do not have constant meetings with their constituents, cannot or do not want to understand their expectations. Their considerations are as follows: We have been elected, we must engage in lawmaking, and that is that. However, our constituents, who believe in the people they have elected, do not live according to such a model. A party that wins the elections must execute its program. Thus, the Seimas, the government, and the constituents must make a closed circle.

[Svirbutaviciute] **Would you explain the principle of this "closed circle"...?**

[Gaska] It is very simple. For example, I go to Varena and listen to my constituents. I select their key problem that I must raise in the Seimas, while the government must resolve it. Unfortunately, many members of our faction do not want to hear or know how these issues are settled. We must control the laws and resolutions that we adopt.

[Svirbutaviciute] **You work in the Seimas National Security Committee. What are your achievements in implementing the laws adopted by the Seimas?**

[Gaska] The situation in the Lithuanian Army is really catastrophic, due to both the lack of laws and the failure to execute them. Gentlemen commanders ignore the law, inflict psychological damage on young people, and cripple them. Where are we living? Who is responsible for all of those casual and senseless deaths? The Army is now conducting young people's genocide. No normal mother wants her child into go to the Lithuanian Army because it is ten times worse than the former Soviet Army. What are we doing? Therefore, I think that my position, as a Seimas deputy, is not adequate to the one that prevails among the community. We are too quiet, nourished, and pleased in the Seimas, while people see everything differently and ask us when we will take power and begin to govern the country. By the way, I am also interested in this. It is said that the winner must get ready for future elections.

[Svirbutaviciute] **How do you imagine the new elections or preparations for them?**

[Gaska] I think that our party leaders have secured seats for themselves. According to popularity ratings, there are constant top ten activists of our party who will win seats in the next elections as well.

I think that the LDDP will have the ensured 10 or 15 seats always, or at least in the upcoming elections. And me? All members of the LDDP faction council are confident that they may be elected in the future.

[Svirbutaviciute] **You were in the LDDP program group which announced blatantly that it would work in a novel manner. One can say today, however, that there was too much ado about nothing....**

[Gaska] Exactly. We shook LDDP's monolithic system and exhausted ourselves. If one wants to create something, one must reason about it. We will always be able to leave by slamming the door loudly, but what of that? We neither ruined nor achieved anything. The current decision of the Constitutional Court on the free establishment of factions will enliven life in the Seimas. The fears of the LDDP faction leaders about this law were ungrounded. We went to the elections with one idea—to rebuild a destroyed Lithuania. We will not run over to the opponents' side or do everything differently. Adherence to the principle of monolithic unity by the faction leadership is unreasonable. Finally, internal criticism is more painful than external criticism.... [passage omitted]

[Svirbutaviciute] **Why have you chosen to work on the National Security Committee? Why did its members in particular begin to form the LDDP program group?**

[Gaska] I wanted to work in the Foreign Affairs Committee because I have strong family relations abroad. I am alone in Lithuania, while two of my brothers and sisters, and my mother live in the United States. The faction asked me not to join this committee and choose another one. I picked the

National Security Committee, although I was also invited to the Budget and Finance Committee. However, I chose such a virile committee with many stormy, stubborn, and strong people. Thus, restless people gathered in this committee. This might explain why the LDDP program group emerged here. It is good because only restless people can accomplish something positive. Sometimes B. Genzelis used to reprimand me, saying: "You are restless because you have not been appointed minister." Well, one can say so. I really withdrew from the faction to avoid becoming a minister. However, politics do not end here. Who knows who will come to power in three years? K. Gaska might become minister in the new government as well. Life does not end today. Eventually, I had no aim to become minister. Our goal was to disturb the quiet life of our faction. Thus, four of us from this committee undertook this initiative.

[Svirbutaviciute] **Unfortunately, you failed to implement everything....**

[Gaska] We may succeed in the future. I believe that there are no less than 1 million people in Lithuania who will need a left-wing party. Our goal is to fight for their votes.

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